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WILLIAM H. CARTER, TREASURER

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TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE
FOUNDED BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
FOR THE TRAINING OF COLORED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

July 1, 1931.

For immediate release.

The Lynching Record for the First Six Months of 1931.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1931 there were 5 lynchings. This number is 4 less than the number 9 for the first six months of 1930; 1 more than the number 4 for the first six months of 1929; it is the same as the number 5 for the first six months of 1928; 6 less than the number 11 for the first six months of 1927 and is 4 less than the number 9 for the first six months of each of the years, 1926 and 1925; it is the same as the number 5 for the first six months of 1924; 10 less than the number 15 for the first six months of 1923; 25 less than the number 30 for the first six months of 1922 and 31 less than the number 36 for the first six months of 1921.

There were 32 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these 4 were in Northern and Western States and 28 in Southern States. In 26 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented. In the 6 other instances force was used. Thus a total of 55 persons, 10 whites and 45 Negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched 1 was white and 4 were Negroes. The offenses charged were attempted rape, 3; murder, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Mississippi, 2; Missouri, 1; North Dakota, 1; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. Moton

Principal.

LYNCHING RECORD- 1931

January

12. Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri, Raymond Gunn, Colored. Charge, Murder, (white nineteen year old school teacher). Taken from jail, marched and dragged three miles to country school house. Chained to ridgepole. Burned to death.

29. Schafer, McKenzie County, North Dakota, Charles Bannon, White. Charge, murder. Taken from jail and hanged.

February

March

23. Inverness, Sunflower County, Mississippi, Steve Wiley, Colored. Charge, Attempted Rape. Hanged. Did not come into hands of law.

29. Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi, Eligah Johnson, Colored. Charge, Attempted rape. Shot to death. Did not come into hands of law.

April

17. Union City, Obion County, Tennessee. George Smith, Colored. Charge, Attempted rape. Taken from jail and hanged in Obion County Courthouse yard.

May

June

July

August

2. Pointe a la Hache, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Oscar Livingston, Colored. Charge, Attempted rape. Taken from jail. Shot to death.

5. Haynesville, Lowndes County, Alabama, Neal Guinn, Colored. Charge, Attempted rape. Shot to death. Did not come into hands of law.
* Sandy Ridge Community, eight miles from Haynesville, (place where lynching occurred).

[illegible]. Blountstown, Calhoun County, Florida. Richard and Charles Smoke, Father and Son, Colored. Charge, Attacking and beating a forest ranger. The Smokes after being arrested were soon released on bail. It was reported that soon after their release they were seized and shot to death.

LYNCHINGS IN 1931 BY STATES

Alabama

Ag. 25...Quinn, Neal, Negro..........Hayneville, Lowndes Co....Attempted rape

Florida

Ag. 28...Smoke, Charles, Negro.......Blountstown, Calhoun Co...Attacking and
beating a forest ranger

Ag. 28...Smoke, Richard, Negro.......Blountstown, Calhoun Co...Attacking and
beating a forest ranger

Louisiana

Ag. 2....Livingston, Oscar, Negro....Pointe a la Hache,
Plaquemines Parish.......Attempted rape

Maryland

D. 4.....Williams, Mack, Negro.......Salisbury, Wicomico Co....Murder

Mississippi

Mr. 22...Wiley, Steve, Negro.........Inverness, Sunflower Co...Attempted rape

Mr. 29...Johnson, Elijah, Negro......Vicksburg, Warren Co......Attempted rape

N. 7.....Franks, Coleman, Negro......Columbus, Lowndes Co......Wounding white man

Missouri

Ja. 12...Gunn, Raymond, Negro........Maryville, Nodaway Co.....Murder

North Dakota

Ja. 29...Bannon, Charles, White......Schafer, McKenzie Co......Murder

Tennessee

Ap. 17...Smith, George, Negro........Union City, Obion Co......Attempted rape

West Virginia

D. 10....Banks, George, Negro........Lewisburg, Greenbrier Co..Murder

D. 10....Jackson, Tom., Negro........Lewisburg, Greenbrier Co..Murder

Lynchings - 1881. — 1931

Cases.

50 YEARS AGO TODAY

NOVEMBER 20, 1881.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The anticipated attempt to take the life of Guiteau, slayer of President Garfield, was made today. On his way from the courthouse to the jail in the prison van he was shot by a man on horseback. The wound was painful and narrowly escaped being a fatal one. The van in which he was riding was followed by the assailant for eight or ten squares until he found a chance to shoot. Policeman Edelin fired a shot at the man on horseback who wheeled his horse and sped away. He was chased by Edelin but escaped. A suspect was later found at a drinking place and arrested. He is Bill Jones, familiarly known in police circles and fond of his cups. He was drunk when arrested and claims he [illegible] not the man who fired the shot. At the trial of Guiteau today Dr. Bliss, one of the attending physicians on President Garfield, was the principal witness.

DURAND, Wis.—Ed Maxwell, alias Williams, was lynched in the courthouse yard here. He confessed that he participated in the murder of the Coleman brothers, who had started out as deputies of the sheriff to capture him for horse stealing. A large crowd had gathered in Durand for his preliminary examination in the courthouse. When he was brought out he was seized despite the not very determined resistance of the officers, dragged through the yelling crowd to a tree in the yard of the courthouse and hanged. The desperado died as he had lived, without fear.

Chic. Tribune
Nov 20 '31

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching

3364

WOMEN PLEASED WITH THE FALL IN LYNCHING RECORD

Tribune

7-10-31

Washington D. C.

Figures for 1931 Far Below Average, Credit Given Various Agencies

ATLANTA, Ga., July 4.—The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching today issued a statement expressing gratification that the lynching record for the first six months of 1931 had, for the second time in fifty years, reached the low level of five for the six months' period, as against an average of about ten times that many for like periods throughout the last half century. As late as 1922, the Association states, the number of victims for the first six months of the year was thirty, or six times as many as in the present year.

For this steady decrease in a humiliating record the Association gives primary credit to the newspapers, the church groups, the officers of the law, the growing opposition to lynching on the part of thousands of Southern white women, and to courageous individuals who have taken effective action against mobs.

The statement was signed by forty-four women from fourteen Southern states, including Missouri. These women represent many hundreds more who are organized in similar associations against lynching in the several states. The organization of these groups was initiated last year by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and has been vigorously promoted by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the woman's work of that organization. The statement follows in full, together with the names of the signers:

Tuskegee

The Report

"The report from Tuskegee Institute on the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of Southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight against this crime. Though five lynchings throughout the United States in this period are a cause for national humiliation, a study of the figures reveals that in a similar period of depression, 1922, the score reached thirty by the time the year was half over.

7-10-31

Washington

"The newspapers of the South with very few exceptions have had a leading part in this result. They have not confined their activities to condemnation of lynchings in the abstract, but they have been tireless in support of the governors, officers of the law and courageous citizens who by united action have prevented mob execution against forty-nine persons within the Southern states alone. Every effort against lynching has received wholehearted cooperation in the editorial columns of the Southern press.

"Churches, through their ministers and particularly through their women's organizations, have helped to arouse public opinion against lynching. The sentiment against this crime can receive no greater impetus than support of organized religion.

"Thousands of Southern white women have responded to the appeals of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and have committed themselves to unflinching opposition to mob rule."

The Signees

Signed: Mrs. W. J. Adams, Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. J. H. McCoy, Athens, Ala.; Mrs. Percy R. Smith, Mrs. John P. Streepy, and Miss Erle Chambers, Little Rock, Ark.; Mrs. Ruth M. Atkinson, Tampa, Fla.; Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, Mrs. S. F. Boykin, and Mrs. Harry M. Gershon Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newman, Ga.; Mrs. Willie Snow Etheridge, Macon, Ga.; Mrs. Attwood Martin, Miss Nannie Hite Winston and Miss Alma Schmitt, Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. W. J. Piggott, Irvington, Ky.; Mrs. W. C. Winsborough, Mrs. Robert Steel, and Mrs. Abel Bliss, Shreveport, La.; Mrs. R. W. Irvine, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. W. E. Hinds, Baton Rouge, La.; Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. L. W. Alford, McComb, Miss.; Mrs. A. J. Aven Clinton, Miss.; Mrs. T. D. Bratton, Jackson, Miss.; Mrs. Charles E. Maddry, Raleigh, N.C.; Mrs. W. A. Newell and Mrs. Hattie S. Weinberg, Greensboro, N.C.; Miss Clara I. Cox, High Point, N. C.; Miss Margaret Yost, Norman, Okla.; Mrs. L. A. Sanders, Chickasha, Okla.; Mrs. C. P. McGowan, Charleston, S.C.; Mrs. James R. Cain, Columbia, S.C.; Mrs. Otia Arrowsmith, Kingstree, S.C.; Mrs. J. W. Mills, BeBaumont, Texas; Mrs. John Hanna and Mrs. George Sprague Dallas, Texas; Mrs. J. L. Brock, Bryan, Texas; Mrs. J. H. Stewart, Arlington, Texas; Miss Estelle Haskins Miss Louise Young and Mrs. F. C. Paschal, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. R. L. Harris, Fountan City, Tenn.; Mrs. W. W. Archer, and Miss Lucy Mason, Richmond, Va.

Fewer Lynchings Please

Savannah Tribune

Figures For 1931 Far Below Average

7-9-31

ONLY FIVE THIS YEAR

Savannah, Ga

Many Agencies Given Credit for Decrease

Atlanta Ga., July 4—The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching today issued a statement expresing gratification that the lynching record for the first six months of 1931 had, for the second time in fifty years, reached the low level of five for the six months' period, as against an average of about ten times that many for like periods throughout the last half century. As late as 1922 the association states, the number of victims for the first six months of the year was thirty, or six times as many as in the present year.

For this steady decrease in a humiliating record the Association gives primary credit to the newspapers, the church groups, the officers of the law, the growing opposition to lynching on the part of thousands of southern white women, and to courageous individuals who have taken effective action against mobs.

The statement was signed by forty-four women from fourteen southern states, including Missouri. These women represent many hundreds more who are organized in similar associations against lynching in the several states. The organization of these groups was initiated last year by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and has been vigorously promoted by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the woman's work of that organization. The statement follows in full, together with the names of the signers:

"The report from Tuskegee Institute on the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight against this crime. Though five lynchings throughout the United States in this period are a cause for national humiliation, a study of the figures reveals that in a similar period of depression, 1922, the score reached thirty by the time the year was half over.

"The newspapers of the south with very few exceptions have had a leading part in this result They have not confined their activities to condemnation of lynchings in the abstract, but they have been tireless in support of the governors, officers of the law and courageous citizens who by united action have prevented mob execution against forty-nine persons within the southern states alone. Every effort against lynching has received whole-hearted cooperation in the editorial columns of the southern press.

"Churches, through their ministers and particularly through their women's organizations, have help- lynching. The sentiment against this crime can receive no greater impetus than support of organized religion.

"Thonsands of southern white women have responded to the appeals of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and have committed themselves to unflinching opposition to mob rule."

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CHATTANOOGA, TENN., TIMES
Monday, July 6, 1931

WOMEN'S ANTILYNCHING FORCES SEE ADVANCES

55

ATLANTA, July 5 (AP).—The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, in a statement issued from headquarters here, says "the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight" against lynching.

Only five lynchings occurred throughout the United States during the first six months of 1931, the association pointed out, as compared with thirty for the same period of 1922 "in a similar time of depressions."

The statement added that southern newspapers have played a leading part in the campaign against lynching and have supported various officials "who by united action have prevented mob execution of forty-nine persons within the southern states alone."

Only Five Lynchings Occurred In Nation In First 6 Months Of Year

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

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7-6-31

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KNOXVILLE, TENN., JOURNAL
Monday, July 6, 1931

Southern Women See Anti-Lynch Policy

55

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WOMEN PLEASED WITH FALL IN LYNCHING RECORD

Presbyterian

Figures for 1931 Far Below Average, Says Southern Association for Prevention of Lynching—Credit Given Various Agencies.

7-7-31

Vol. XIII

No 27

Charlotte

N.C.

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part of thousands of Southern white women, and to courageous individuals who have taken effective action against mobs.

The statement was signed by forty-four women from fourteen Southern States, including Missouri. These women represent many hundreds more who are organized in similar associations against lynching in the several States. The organization of these groups was initiated last year by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and has been vigorously promoted by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the woman's work of that organization. The statement follows in full, together with the names of the signers:

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NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 6 1931

ANTI-LYNCHING GAIN SEEN.

Southern Women's Association Cites Record for Half Year.

ATLANTA, Ga., July 5 (AP).—The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching in a statement today said that "the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of Southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight" against lynching.

Only five lynchings occurred throughout the United States during the first six months of 1931, the association pointed out, compared with thirty for the same period of 1922, "in a similar time of depression."

The statement added that Southern newspapers have played a leading part in the campaign against lynching, and have supported various officials "who by united action have prevented mob execution of forty-nine persons within the Southern States alone."

ATLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION

JUL 5 1931

ANTI-LYNCH RECORD IS LAUDED BY WOMEN

Results in First Half of Year Are Praised by Two Organizations.

Two southern women's associations for the prevention of lynching Saturday issued statements of gratification at the south's record for the first six months of 1931.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching said "the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight" against lynching.

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The statement added that southern newspapers have played a leading part in the campaign against lynching and have supported various officials and officers and citizens "who by united action have prevented mob execution against 49 persons within the southern states alone."

The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching issued the second statement.

The Georgia association, the statement read, "is justly proud that the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 carries no mark against their state. Prompt action on the part of the governor, local officials and courageous individual citizens has brought about this gratifying situation, thus providing the protection of the law for eight persons."

The names of women from Florida Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia were signed to the southern statement. Fourteen Georgia women signed the other.

Manchester, Ga., Mercury
Friday, July 17, 1931

Lynchless Half Year Gratifies Women

The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching is justly proud that the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 carries no mark against their State. Prompt action on the part of the Governor, local officials, and courageous individual citizens has brought about this gratifying situation, thus providing the protection of the law for eight persons.

Among church people of the State, men and women, there have been those who have given effective service in averting the threat of mob violence. The majority of the leading newspapers of Georgia have been untiring in their efforts to create a sane public opinion on this subject. We look to our new Governor to lead in maintaining this record for the remainder of the year. We confidently believe that the time is not far distant when public opinion will look upon even attempted mob action as a crime from which there shall be no immunity.

Signed: Miss Elizabeth Head, Atlanta; Miss Annie Linton, Athens; Mrs. Harry M. Gershon, Atlanta; Mrs. John J. Eagan, Atlanta; Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs. Willie Snow Etheridge, Macon; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan; Mrs. H. H. Hirsch, Atlanta; Mrs. W. A. Albright, Atlanta; Mrs. E. B. Harreld, Macon; Mrs. B. F. Boykin, Carrollton; Mrs. W. Frank Smith, Atlanta; Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, Atlanta; Miss Mary Dickinson, Atlanta.

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. 6

3365

AMERICAN
HATTIESBURG, MISS.

JUL 11 1931

LESS LYNCHING

Five lynchings during the ~~first six~~ months of 1931 constitutes such a favorable showing as compared with the annual average over the past half century as to call forth a statement from prominent white women who are members of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. As late as 1922, the number of victims for the first six months of the year, was thirty, or six times as many as in the present year.

For this steady decrease in a bumiliating record of mob murders, the Association gives primary credit to the newspapers, the church groups, the officers of the law, the growing opposition to lynching on the part of thousands of Southern white women, and to courageous individuals who have taken effective action against mobs.

The time is coming when the curse of lynch law will be lifted from our shoulders. Southern white women, for whose honor and virtue the cowardly mobsters assumed to act, are depriving these murderers of their worn out alibi by refusing to countenance mob murder under any excuse no matter how great the provocation.

It would be well for women voters to demand of candidates for sheriff in every county that they state plainly their position with respect to risking their lives in defense of their jails or prisoners committed to their custody. It is gratifying to learn of heroic officers who value their oaths of office above life itself. In this area of human conflict, real progress is being made.

Folkston, Ga., Herald
Friday, July 10, 1931

Lynchless Half Year Gratifies Georgia Women

The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching is justly proud that the record of lynchings for the first half of, 1931 caries no mark against their State. Prompt action on the part of the Governor, local officials, and courageous individual citizens have brought about this gratifying situation, thus providing the protection of the law for eight persons.

Among church people of the State, men and women, there have been those who have given effective service in averting the threat of mob violence. The majority of the leading newspapers of Georgia have been untiring in their efforts to create a sane public opinion on this subject. We look to our new Governor to lead in maintaining this record for the remainder of the year. We confidently believe that the time is not far distant when public opinion will look upon even attempted mob action as a crime from which there shall be no immunity.

Signed: Miss Elizabeth Head, Atlanta; Miss Annie Linton, Athens; Mrs. Harry M. Gershon, Atlanta; Mrs. John J. Eagan, Atlanta; Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs: Willie Snow Etheridge, Macon; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newman; Mrs. H. H. Hirsch, Atlanta; Mrs. W. A. Albright, Atlanta; Mrs. E. B. Harreld, Macon; Mrs. B. F. Boykin, Carrollton; Mrs. W. Frank Smith, Atlanta; Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, Atlanta; Miss Mary Dickinson, Atlanta.

Bainbridge, Ga., Post-Searchlight
Thursday, July 9, 1931

9

Lynchless Half Year Gratifies Ga. Woman

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Among church people of the State, men and women, there have been those who have been given effective service in averting the threat of mob violence. The majority of the leading newspapers of Georgia have been untiring in their efforts to create a sane public opinion on this subject. We look to our new Governor to lead in maintaining this record for the remainder of the year. We confidently believe that the time is not far distant when public opinion will look upon even attempted mob action as a crime from which there shall be no immunity.

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on how the situation stood exactly.

President Hoover continued ni direct personal touch with the discussions, however, hearing Secretary Mellon report by telephone from Paris.

Acting Secretaries Castle, of the state department, and Mills, of the treasury, also heard Mr. Mellon. Immediately thereafter the president postponed his scheduled departure for the Rapidan camp in Virginia.

Castle in a little while read to newspapermen the communique issued in Paris, which told of removal of important diveregncies and said lesser ones remaining will be submitted to the French cabinet tomorrow. The acting secretary, replying to a question whether he considered the French statement as indicating that nation had accepted the United States moratorium proposal in principle, said:

"I should not think so yet."

He repeated the statement in the communique to the effect that some differences sill existed.

Presidnet Von Hindenburg tonight sent a personal wish to President Hoover that "the magnanimous action started by you would be a blessing for the whole world."

COLUMBIA, TENN., HERALD
Friday, July 10, 1931

Women Pleased With Fall In Lynching Mark

55

(Special to The Daily Herald.)

ATLANTA, Ga., July 10. — The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, in a statement issued from its offices here, expresses gratification that the lynching record for the first six months of 1931 again reached the low level of five for the six months' period, as against an average of about ten times that many for like periods throughout the last half century. As late as 1922, the association states, the number of victims for the first six months of the year was 30, or six times as many as in the present year.

For this steady decrease in a humiliating record the association gives primary credit to the newspapers, the church groups, the officers of the law, the growing opposition to lynching on the part of thousands of Southern white women, and to courageous individuals who have taken effective action against mobs.

The statement was signed by 44 women from 14 Southern states, including Missouri.

Oglethorpe, Ga., Citizen
Friday, July 10, 1931

Lynchless Half Year Gratifies Georgia Women

The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching is justly proud that the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 carries no mark against their State. Prompt action on the part of the Governor, local officials, and courageous individual citizens has brought about this gratifying situation, thus providing the protection of the law for eight persons.

Among church people of the State, men and women, there have been those who have given effective service in averting the threat of mob violence. The majority of the leading newspapers of Georgia have been untiring in their effort to create a sane public opinion on this subject. We look to our new Governor to lead in maintaining this record for the remainder of the year. We confidently believe that the time is not far distant when public opinion will look upon even attempted mob action as a crime from which there shall be no immunity.

Signed: Miss Elizabeth Head, Atlanta; Miss Annie Linton, Athens; Mrs. Harry M. Gershon, Atlanta; Mrs. John J. Eagan, Atlanta; Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs. Willie Snow Etheridge, Macon; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan; Mrs. H. H. Hirsch, Atlanta; Mrs. W. A. Albright, Atlanta; Mrs. E. B. Harreld, Macon; Mrs. B. F. Boykin, Carrollton; Mrs. W. Frank Smith, Atlanta; Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, Atlanta; Miss Mary Dickinson, Atlanta.

Bremen, Ga., Gateway
Thursday, July 16, 1931

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Oklahoma City, Okla.
OKLAHOMAN
JUL 12 1931

Lynching and Denunciation

ONLY five lynchings occurred in the United States in the first six months of the current year, according to the published statement of the association of southern women for the prevention of lynching. Only five. But five are exactly five too many. As low as the total is compared with former totals, it proves that the vice of mob murder still attaches to some portions of the American peoples.

But real progress is being made in the war upon this species of crime. In the first six months of 1922 the number of lynchings was six times as many as the number for the first half of 1931. That is real progress and commendable progress. It is encouraging to those who have set as their goal the complete elimination of lynching from American life.

There is no just and reasonable other-side to this issue of mob elimination. But a current Alabama case reveals some of the difficulties encountered by southern authorities in curbing crime and preventing lynching. Eight Negroes were arrested on a charge of having attacked two white girls. By resolute action the authorities cooled the rising passions of a threatening mob and gave the Negroes a trial according to the forms of law. They were found guilty and sentenced to death. They are awaiting execution now at Scottsboro.

But there is no word of praise for sheriff and deputies and governor who prevented mob action and gave to the accused the trial to which they were entitled. On the contrary there is furious denunciation of southern blood-mindedness which sentences so many men to death for a single crime. Such denunciation is not helpful. The citizens of a commonwealth hear themselves denounced just as bitterly if the prisoner is given a legal trial and convicted. The mob spirit is destined to die slowly in a commonwealth whose people are denounced viciously no matter what they do.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
POST
JUL 14 1931

LYNCHINGS DROP FOR SIX MONTHS

Decrease Due To Many Causes, Report Says

The lynching record in the United States for the first six months of 1931 is five, compared to an average of about 50 for similar periods thruout the last half century, according to reports from the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Mrs. W. J. Adams, a member of the Birmingham organization, said in an interview, primary credit in this reduction is due to newspapers, church groups, law officers, growing opposition on the part of southern white women and individuals who have taken effective action against mobs. These agencies have aided in preventing mob execution against 49 persons in the south this year, she explained.

The association is a branch of the Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation. The Birmingham group was organized in early spring by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, from Atlanta headquarters. Mrs. J. H. McCoy is local chairman.

A statement of gratification on the reduction has been signed by Mrs. Adams, Mrs. McCoy and 42 other representative church and club women of the south.

July 11, 1931
DENVER COLO STATESMAN

WOMEN PLEASED WITH FALL IN LYNCHING RECORD

Figures for 1931 Far Below Average, Says Southern Association for Prevention of Lynching—Credit Given Various Agencies

ATLANTA, GA., July 4.—The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching today issued a statement expressing gratification that the lynching record for the first six months of 1931 had for the second time in fifty years, reached the low level of five for the six months' period, as against an average of about ten times that many for like periods throughout the last half century. As late as 1922, the association states, the number of victims for the first six months of the year was thirty, or six times as many as in the present year.

For this steady decrease in a humiliating record the association gives primary credit to the newspapers, the church groups, the officers of the law, the growing opposition to lynching on the part of thousands of Southern white women, and to courageous individuals who have taken effective action against mobs.

The statement was signed by forty-four women from fourteen Southern states, including Missouri. These women represent many hundreds more who are organized in similar associations against lynching in the several states.—The organization of these groups was initiated last year by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and has been vigorously promoted by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the woman's work of that organization. The statement follows in full, together with the names of the signers:

"The report from Tuskegee Institute on the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of Southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight against this crime. Though five lynchings throughout the United States in this period are a cause for national humiliation, a study of the figures reveals that in a similar period of depression, 1922, the score reached thirty by the time the year was half over.

"The newspapers of the South, with very few exceptions, have had a leading part in this result. They have not confined their activities to condemnation of lynchings in the abstract, but they have been tireless in support of the governors, officers of the law and courageous citizens who by united action have prevented mob execution against forty-nine persons within the Southern states alone. Every effort against lynching has received whole-hearted cooperation in the editorial columns of the Southern press.

"Churches, through their ministers and particularly through their women's organizations, have helped to arouse public opinion against lynching. The sentiment against this crime can receive no greater impetus than support of organized religion.

"Thousands of Southern white women have responded to the appeals of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and have committed themselves to unflinching opposition to mob rule."

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Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching

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COLUMBIA (S.C.) RECORD
Saturday, July 11, 1931

Women Praise Decrease of Lynching Record in South

Newspapers Are Given Much Credit For Efforts to Stop Mob Rule

(Special to The Record)

ATLANTA, Ga., July 11—The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, in a statement issued from its offices here, expresses gratification that the lynching record for the first six months of 1931 again reached the low level of five for the six months' period, as against an average of about ten times that m v for like periods throughout the half century. As late as 1922, Association states, the number of victims for the first six months of the year was thirty, or six times as many as in the present year.

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Mrs. J. R. Cain, of Columbia, is mong the group who signed the oregoing statement.

Leader
SIOUX FALLS
SOUTH DAKOTA

JUL 24 1931

LYNCHING AND DENUNCIATION

Oklahoma City Oklahoman

Only five lynchings occurred in the United States in the first six months of the current year, according to the published statement of the association of southern women for the prevention of lynching. Only five. But five are exactly five too many. As low as the total is compared with former totals, it proves that the vice of mob murder still attaches to some portions of the American peoples.

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There is no just and reasonable other-side to this issue of mob elimination. But a current Alabama case reveals some of the difficulties encountered by southern authorities in curbing crime and preventing lynching. Eight Negroes were arrested on a charge of having attacked two white girls. By resolute action the authorities cooled the rising passions of a threatening mob and gave the Negroes a trial according to the forms of law. They were found guilty and sentenced to death. They are awaiting execution now at Scottsboro.

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JERSEY CITY, N. J.
JOURNAL
JUL 22 1931

Some Say This, Some Say That

* * * *

Editorial Observations Culled From Other Publications

Lynching and Denunciation

(The Oklahoma Daily Oklahoman)

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GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD
JUL 16 1931

Lynchings Decreasing.

During the past six months only five persons were lynched in the United States as compared with an average of about ten times that number during like periods for the past fifty years or more. The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, with becoming modesty, says the newspapers of the south are largely responsible for the decrease in lynching.

The association, which numbers in its membership many of the south's most influential white women, points to the fact that the newspapers "have not confined their activities to the condemnation of lynchings in the abstract, but they have been tireless in support of governors, officers of the law and courageous citizens who, by united action, have prevented mob executions alone. Every effort against lynching has received wholehearted cooperation in the editorial columns of the southern press."

The press has long waged a relentless fight against mob rule. And, as the association also points out, the newspapers in this righteous crusade have always had the strong support of the churches and other religious organizations. Public sentiment now sems to be swinging to the side of the right. People are more than ever before coming to realize that the best and the only fair way to settle cases is in the courts.

Hundreds are joining the women's association, thus committing themselves to an unflinching opposition to lynching. Whatever is responsible for this change in popular at- the splendid record of recent rtainly affords real cause fulness and for rejoicing.

EVANSVILLE, IND.
COURIER
NOV 1 0 [illegible]

MRS. STEWART INVITED TO ANTI-LYNCHING MEET

Mrs. Sallie Stewart, teacher at Lincoln high school, is one of the four colored women in the United States to receive invitations to attend a meeting of the Association of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching. The conference will be held in Atlanta, Ga., November 20 and 21.

The Southern commission in concluding its studies of lynching along with criticism of hasty trials and "legal lynchings," yesterday declared that two of the 21 persons lynched in 1930 "certainly" were innocent and that 11 others, "possibly so," according to an Associated Press dispatch.

The association is composed of women from 10 southern states.

Leave of absence to attend the meeting was granted Mrs. Stewart yesterday by the board of education.

TLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION

NOV 22 1931

Mob Violence Described as 'Menace to Public Safety' At First Annual Meeting of Anti-Lynching Association

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching held its first annual meeting here Saturday. The delegates are shown above, seated, left to right, Miss Estelle Haskin, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. J. W. Mills, Beaumont, Texas; Mrs. Charles E. Maddry, Raleigh, N. C.; Mrs. W. A. Newell, secretary, Greensboro, N. C; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director, Decatur, Ga.; Mrs. W. C. Winsboro, Shreveport, La.; Miss Janie McGaughey, Atlanta; Mrs. Margaret Yost, Norman, Okla. Standing, left to right, Miss Alma Schmitt, Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. Henry S. Eley, Suffolk, Va.; Miss Elizabeth Head, Decatur, Ga.; Mrs. R. L. Harris, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mrs. R. S. Crichlow, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. Robert W. Irvine, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. George Davis, Orangeburg, S. C.; Mrs. James R. Cain, Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. L. W. Alford, McComb, Miss.; Mrs. J. L Brock, Bryan, Texas; Mrs. M. E. Lilly, Atlanta, and Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan, Ga.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching organized in this city a year ago, held its first annual meeting here Saturday, reaffirmed its conviction "that lynching is not a defense of womanhood, but rather a menace to private and public safety," and formed definite plans to continue and intensify its campaign against mob violence.

Twenty official representatives from 11 southern states were present, all of them prominent in religious and civic organizations. Interested visitors and invited guests brought the attendance to more than twice that number. The meetings were held at the Piedmont hotel, opening Friday night and concluding at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The presiding officer was Mrs. Charles Maddry, of Raleigh, N. C.

Letters were read from Governor Richard B. Russell Jr., of Georgia, and Governor I. C. Blackwood, of South Carolina, extending greetings to the organization and good wishes for the success of its work.

Letter From Russell.

Governor Russell's letter, addressed the Southern Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching, was as follows:

"I wish to extend to you greetings and best wishes in your meeting. As chief executive of Georgia I am heartily in favor of all efforts directed toward upholding the laws of the state and nation.

"The express purpose of your organization is to prevent lynchings. I am sure that your efforts have the best wishes of all law-abiding citizens of our state. Every effort to punish crime, other than by the agencies established by law for this purpose, strikes at the fundamentals of this government and cannot be too strongly condemned.

"Cordially yours,
"RICHARD B. RUSSELL JR."

Blackwood Extends Greetings.

Governor I. C. Blackwood's letter was addressed to Mrs. George E. Davis, one of the South Carolina delegates, and contained the following words: "I wish to commend you and will be glad to co-operate with you at any time in your good work. I had it in mind to attend the conference in Atlanta on November 20 and 21, but find that I have a previous engagement that will prevent. I wish for you, however, a very successful meeting."

Resolution Adopted.

After an extended discussion of the conditions and attitudes contributing to mob violence and the means for their improvement, the group adopted the following statement of its convictions and purposes:

"We, the central council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, representing 13 southern states, are profoundly convinced that lynching is not a defense of womanhood, but rather a menace to private and public safety, and a deadly blow at our most sacred institutions. Instead of deterring irresponsible and criminal classes from further crime, as it is argued, lynching tends inevitably to destroy all respect for law and order. It brutalizes the community where it occurs, including the women and children who frequently witness its orgies, and particularly the youth who are usually conspicuous participants. In its indiscriminate haste for revenge, the mob sometimes takes the lives of innocent persons, and often inflicts death for minor offenses. It brings contempt upon America as the only country where such crimes occur, discredits our civilization, and discounts the Christian religion around the globe.

"We would call attention to the fact that lynching is not alone the crime of ignorant and irresponsible mobs, but that every citizen who condones it, even by his silence, must accept a share of its guilt.

"We therefore call upon our governors and other public officials, as well as upon the mothers, the teachers, the press and all other public opinion-forming agencies, to use every power at their disposal to protect from mob anarchy the laws of our country; upon our religious leaders to cry aloud against this crime till it ceases to exist; upon parents and teachers to train up a generation incapable of such relapses into barbarism; and upon all right-thinking men and women to do their utmost every way for the complete eradication of this crime."

Organization Strengthened.

Plans were formulated to strengthen the organization throughout the south to the point where, if possible every county shall be represented. A definite program was adopted, including investigation, educational effort and vigorous protest where other means fail. The official representatives present, as members of the central council, were as follows:

Mrs. J. R. Cain, Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. J. W. Mills, Beaumont, Texas; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Greensboro, N. C.; Miss Janie McGaughey, Mrs. M. E. Tilly, and Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta; Mrs. Ivy C. Johnson, Leesburg, Fla.; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan, Ga.; Miss Alma Schmitt, Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. R. S. Crichlow and Mrs. R. W. Irvine, New Orleans; Mrs. W. C. Winnsboro, Shreveport; Mrs. L. W. Alford, McComb, Miss.; Mrs. Charles E. Maddry, Raleigh, N. C.; Mrs. Margaret Yost, Norman, Okla.; Mrs. George Davis, Orangeburg, S. C.; Mrs. R. L. Harris, Knoxville; Miss Estelle Haskin, Nashville; Mrs. J. L. Brock, Bryan, Texas, and Mrs. Henry E. Eley, Suffolk, Va.

The officers of the association are Mrs. Attwood Martin, of Louisville, chairman; Mrs. W. A. Newell, of Greensboro, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, executive director.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation Survey of Lynchings.

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Connivance Given Blame For Lynchers' Acquittal

Telegraph

11-10-31

Macon, Ga.

Southern Commission Reports that of 21 Persons Killed by Mobs Last Year, Two Were "Certainly Innocent" and 11 Others Possibly So

ATLANTA, Nov. 9.—The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching says that although mob members generally made "little or no effort to conceal their identity" indictments were returned in only six of the 21 lyching cases in 1930.

The commission report, published today, said "officers and others present" at lynchings usually "testified that they recognized none" of the mob. This attitude was attributed "only to connivance or stupidity."

Of the 21 persons lynched in 1930, two were "certainly innocent, and 11 others possibly so," the report added. In some cases, the commission said, it "found reason to suspect that the victims had been deliberately 'framed' for the purpose of concealment or revenge."

The following statements were included in a summary of the commission's report:

"Less than one-fourth of persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assault upon white women.

"Claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes is found to be fallacious.

"Lynching is most frequent per tens of thousands of Negro population in sparsely settled areas.

"There is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status, and lynching danger."

Causes of Lynchings

Discussing the offenses for which lynchings occurred in 1930, the report says "one man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents, and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men. In five of the other 11 cases, it was not clear that the mobs got the guilty persons, and in the other six there was doubt as to the truth of the charges against the men lynched."

The group making the investigation, which was appointed last year by the Commission of Interracial Co-operation, was headed by George Fort Milton, president and editor of the Chattanooga, Tenn., News, and included Julian Harris, news director of the Atlanta Constitution; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta university (for Negroes); Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State college (for Negroes); Dr. Charles S. Johnson, department of social science, Fisk university (for Negroes); Dr. W. P. King, book editor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, president of Furman university and also head of the Southern Baptist convention; Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee institute (for Negroes); Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina; Alex Spence, Dallas, Texas, attorney, and Dr. Monroe Work, of Tuskegee institute.

Telegraph

Dr. W. C. Jackson, vice president of North Carolina College for Women and chairman of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, and Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, are ex-officio members of the Commission on Lynching Study. 11-10-31

Fallacious Claim

The claim that courts do not convict, often advanced as another excuse for lynching, was fallacious, the commission said, for its investigations showed that, in 18 months ending July 1, 1931, 68 Negroes were executed by law in the southern states, and 470 were given life sentences. Eight of the executions were for rape, 57 for murder and three for other crimes.

Macon, Ga.

In several instances in which serious crimes led to lynching attempts, the commission found evidence that "the culprits were defective half-wits whom society, for its own protection, should long since have apprehended and confined." The report pointed out, however, that practically no public provision has been made for such protection, and termed this state of affairs an inexcusable neglect for which the public pays the penalty in crime and insecurity.

The commission found also a probable connection between illiteracy and crime, instancing the facts that not one of the 21 mob victims of 1930 had as much as a high school education, only one had gone beyond the fifth grade, and 11 were totally or practically illiterate. This, according to the commission, suggests the fundamental value of better educational facilities in increasing the level of public security.

As a result of careful investigations on the ground, the commission asserted that, in most lynching cases, if observers had the will and courage to do it, there would be no difficulty in identifying mob leaders and members. Generally the mob members made little or no effort to conceal their identity; yet officers and others present in their midst usually testified that they recognized on one of them. This attitude, the report declared, could be attributed only to "connivance or stupidity." This type of local sympathy or intimidation, the commission continued, was largely responsible for the fact that indictments were returned in only six lynching cases in 1930, and that so far only four of the 49 men indicted have been convicted. The Negro's political impotence was pointed out as a factor in the indifference of officers toward the resistance and prosecution of mobs.

Victims Poorly Educated

Most of those whom the commission's investigators identified as probable participants in mobs were poorly educated, propertyless, and irresponsible, often unemployed and sometimes with court records. However, a number of those identified as mob members were found to be members of the churches, while a very few had some prominence in the community.

It was pointed out that officers from other counties, as well as stockade guards and other petty local officials, in some cases only complicated the situation and at times directly or indirectly abetted the mob. The presence of curious onlookers often had the same effect, the report continued, pointing out that in some instances boys had been conspicuous in the crowds, and sometimes women and children as well. In three cases the National Guard, though on the scene, were wholly ineffective.

The commission found that, in proportion to Negro population, lynchings is commonest in thinly-settled counties and in those with less than 25 per cent of Negro population, rather than in the "Black Belt" and in population centers. In number of mob victims since 1889, it was pointed out that Georgia, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana led with 465, 464, 364, and 349 lunchings respectively. But figured on the basis of Negro population, the percentage of lynchings was greatest in Florida, with Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas following in order. The fact was discovered that lynching, while decreasing rapidly during the last three decades, was becoming more exclusively a Southern phenomenon, with 97 per cent of all the country's lynching occurring in the South in recent years, as against 82 per cent in the South in earlier decades.

Eleven of the 1930 lynchings, it was found took place in counties which had had none in 30 years. This fact the commission interpreted as indicating that no community is immune from mob violence and that good citizens everywhere should be constantly on watch for threatening situations. Many of 1930's lynchings, the commission declared, could easily have been prevented in this way. It pointed out that, in the decade ending with 1929, 448 attempts at lynching were frustrated by the prompt action of officers and citizens.

"Legal Lynchings"

The commission cited illustrations of what it termed "legal lynchings"—hasty trials and foredoomed convictims under mob pressure so great as to preclude all possibility of deliberate and impartial judicial procedure. In some cases officials have actually bargained with mobs, and had "bought off" the leaders with promises of speedy conviction and execution, promises sometimes carried out to the bitter end, even in the face of reasonable doubt of the guilt of the accused.

Against this dark picture, however, the commission pointed out certain encouraging high lights. One is the fact that lynchings have steadily decreased from the high tide of 255 in 1892 to the low mark of 10 in 1929, and to an average of 17 per year for the past six years. Another is the fact that the great religious bodies, the newspapers, and many influential individuals and groups are united in condemnation of the lynching habit.

The commission announced that it also has under way a study of the existing laws affecting lynching and mob violence, and that at a later date the results of this branch of the work will be made public. One of the aims of the legal inquiry is the drafting of a proposed anti-lynching statute which if adopted would implement every state with legal machinery to bring effective punishment to those who take the law into their own hands through mob violence.

THE MILTON SURVEY

Reporter

From The Birmingham Age-Herald

NOV 14 1931

The report of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching is valuable not because it offers novel findings, but because it puts in authoritative and impressive form conclusions held for a long time by enlightened Southerners. Men like George Fort Milton, Julian Harris and Howard Odum have done an excellent job in joining hand with Negro educators of standing for the purpose of driving home to our bosoms and business the cardinal viciousness of lynch law.

What this survey makes clear beyond dispute is that none of the rationalizations for a resort to lynching holds water. Assaults on white women are the avowed justification in only a fraction of the cases of mob vengeance. Doubt as to the speed and effectiveness of the judicial process is palpably indefensible. Assurance touching the guilt of victims is apparently a negligible element in the situation.

NOV 14 1931

What this suvey makes clear, furthermore, is that if the authorities have sufficient courage, lynching parties will become few and far between. Not only have many brave officials successfully defied the terror of the crowd, but there is every reason to believe that members of mobs can be easily identified, if representatives of the law will take the trouble to do so. Either to prevent lynchings or to punish lynchers is not a difficult matter if those in authority are big enough to live up to their obligation.

Mr. Milton's commission is engaged in drafting an anti-lynching statute that will really serve the purpose of eliminating the evil. That is the right direction for the activity of Southerners to take. This is a Southern problem and a state problem. We must avoid at any cost the interference of Congress, which has threatened on several occasions. To make sure that the federal government will not thrust itself into state affairs, the states must make their own showing.

If but 10 lynchings took place in 1929, it is evident that as time goes on we shall have extinguished this plague as a constant factor in our sectional life. That can be done—it will be done, as the forces of expanding civilization make themselves felt in the struggle with ignorance, prejudice and economic inferiority. That is a day to look forward to, the day when the crime of lynch law will have been thrust into the limbo occupied by other expressions of blood-lust and savagery.

LYNCHINGS ARE LESSENING.

Constitution

The report of the southern commission on the study of lynching asserts that the number of prisoners of the [illegible] lynched during the just ended record year amounted to only 21 victims. There have been years with fewer such extra-judical executions, with special obvious reasons for the fewness, but taking into account all the circumstances of the era of hard times, unemployment, temptations to robbery, hijacking and social demoralization, the record of 21 for last year is gratifying to law enforcement and social welfare authorities.

NOV 14 1931

Lynchings are events as hazardous to the community as to the outlaws whose desperate deeds provoke them. That fact stands unchallengeable in the report of the commission. As results of the most careful investigations the commission found that certainly two of the lynched persons were innocent of the crimes charged upon them and at least 11 others were more probably innocent than guilty. What else can be said of those particular cases of mob rage than that they were the acts of inflamed, unreasoning and reckless self-elected ministers of justice.

The barbarous lynching of a merely suspected offender fixes a certain and indelible crime upon the community. The hurried and angry execution of one upon whom no positive proof of guilt is fixed is a "head and tails" toss-up gamble with life and justice.

We can as yet discern no sure sign that "Judge Lynch," any more than "King Alcohol," will soon be ashamed and afraid to perform anywhere in our country. We do sense in the press and in the public welfare circles of the nation a strongly growing enmity to lynching and lynchers. Public authorities are being held to a stricter attention to manifestations of the mob spirit and the hope grows yearly that justice will yet win its fight to practically suppress that evil psychology.

N. Y. EVENING POST

NOV 9 1931

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2 LYNCHED IN 1930 FOUND INNOCENT

Southern Commission Sees Doubt of Guilt for 11 Others of 22 Victims

CONDEMNS HASTY TRIALS

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 9 (AP).—Conclusions that two of the twenty-one persons lynched in 1930 "certainly" were innocent and eleven others "possibly" so were advanced today by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching along with a criticism of hasty trials and "legal lynchings."

The commission listed as findings of a year's survey that:

(1) There is real doubt of guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence.

(2) Fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white women.

(3) Claims that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes are fallacious.

(4) Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although Grand Jury indictments seldom are brought.

(5) Lynching is most frequent per tens of thousands of Negro population in sparsely settled areas.

(6) There is direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and lynching danger.

Editor Heads Commission

The report was made public here today by the commission's chairman, George Fort Milton, president and editor of the Chattanooga (Tenn.) News. Associated with him in the study were:

Julian Harris, news director of the Atlanta Constitution; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University (for Negroes); Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Department of Social Science, Fisk University; Dr. W. P. King, book editor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, president of Furman University and of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute (for Negroes), and Dr. Howard W. Odum, University of North Carolina.

Regarding offenses that resulted in lynchings, the commission said: "One man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men."

In some cases, the commission said it found reason to suspect victims had been deliberately "framed" for purposes of concealment or revenge.

The Negro's political impotence was pointed out as a factor in the "indifference" of officers toward resistance and prosecution of mobs. Women and children, the report said, sometimes were conspicuous among the onlookers.

Georgia led in contributing to the 3,693 lynchings since 1889 with 465. Mississippi had 464, Texas 364 and Louisiana 349. On the basis of percentage of Negro population, lynchings were most numerous in Florida, with Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas following in order.

The commission concluded lynching, while decreasing during the last three decades, was becoming more exclusively a Southern phenomenon with 97 per cent of the country's lynchings occurring in the South in recent years, against 82 per cent in earlier decades. The commission found 448 attempts at lynching were prevented by prompt action by officers and citizens in the ten years ended with 1929.

Illustrations of what it termed "legal lynchings" were cited by the commission, together with instances of hasty trials and "foredoomed convictions" under mob pressure. In some cases, the report said, officials actually bargained with mobs and had "bought off" the leaders with promises of speedy conviction and execution.

The commission pointed out certain encouraging high lights against this dark picture, however. One was that lynchings decreased from the high tide of 255 in 1892 to the low of ten in 1929 and an average of seventeen for each of the last six years. Another was that religious bodies, newspapers and influential groups and individuals were uniting in condemnation of lynching.

One of the aims of the commission is the drafting of a proposed anti-lynching statute to provide effective machinery for punishment of the crime. The commission announced it had under way a study of the existing laws on lynching and mob violence in this connection.

New York Evening Journal

NOV 9 1931

2 LYNCH VICTIMS INNOCENT

Investigation Shows Guilt of 11 Others In Doubt

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 9.—By International News Service).—Two of 21 persons lynched in the South in 1930 were "certainly innocent," the Southern commission on the study of lynching declared here today in a report, the result of a year of investigation.

Eleven others lynched possibly were innocent, the commission found.

"There is real doubt of guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence," the report stated. Contrary to popular opinion, less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assault upon white women.

"FALLACIOUS CLAIMS."

The commission also agreed:

"Claim that lynching are necessary because courts do not convict negroes for their crimes is found to be fallacious.

"Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although Grand Jury indictments are seldom brought.

"There is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and the lynching danger."

One man was lynched in 1930 "solely because he had offended political opponents," the commission found, and "another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men."

DISCOVER 'FRAMEUPS.'

In five other cases, the report added, "it was not clear that the mobs got the guilty persons and in six others there was doubt as to the truth of the charges against the men lynched."

Evidence of deliberate "framing" was discovered in other cases.

The report, however, say encouragement in the decrease in lynchings from 255 in 1892 to 10 in 1929 and an average of 17 a year for the past six years.

The report was made public by the chairman, George Fort Miltin, president and editor of the Chattanooga News.

N. Y. WALL ST. EVE. JOURNAL

NOV 9 1931

Two Lynched in 1930, Found Innocent

ATLANTA—The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching reported today that two of the 21 persons lynched in 1930 were innocent, and 11 others possibly so.

Highlights of the report were: There is real doubt of guilt of at least half of the victims of mob violence; less than one-fourth of persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assault upon white women.

New York American

NOV 10 1931

Commission Finds Lynching Victims Often Were Innocent

ATLANTA, Nov. 9 (AP).—Conclusions that two of the twenty-one persons lynched in 1930 "certainly" were innocent and eleven others "possibly" so were advanced today by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching along with a criticism of hasty trials and "legal lynchings."

The commission's report said that although mob members generally make "little or no effort to conceal their identity," indictments were returned in only six of the twenty-one lynchings. It said "officers and others present" at lynchings usually "testified that they recognized none" of the mob.

In some cases, the commission found "reason to suspect that the victims had been deliberately 'framed' for the purpose of concealment or revenge." The report added:

"One man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponent, and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men."

Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation Survey of Lynchings.

3368

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
INQUIRER

NOV 1 1 1931

Lynching of Innocent Negroes

Lynch law is difficult to defend in any circumstances; but when the victims of mob violence are afterwards proved to be innocent of the crimes for which they have been executed it becomes all the more horrible. The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching has just made a report on this subject which is not only illuminating in the facts set forth, but also presents convincing reasons why this form of supposed justice should never be resorted to as a preventive of crime. The report states that two of the twenty-one persons lynched last year were absolutely innocent, and that eleven others were probably so. In this connection official laxity is rightly scored. So is the failure to check mobs and the small number of indictments found against known lynchers.

The encouraging feature of this presentation lies in the fact that the commission was a Southern one, its chairman being George Fort Milton of Chattanooga, Tennessee. It is obvious that Mr. Milton and his colleagues were anxious to get the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. As a consequence the report is valuable and constructive. The chief justification for lynching in the past has been to halt attacks upon white women. But the investigators find that the reason is not in accord with the facts. "The popular opinion that most lynchings are for the punishment of crimes against women," it says, "is wide of the mark, for of 3693 persons lynched during the forty-one years ending with 1929 only 23 per cent. were accused of actual or attempted crimes against women, while 77 per cent. were lynched for other offenses."

Indeed, it is shown that some of them were for political reasons or were prompted by a desire for personal revenge. The commission rightly insists that those who advocate lynch law as a necessary defense of womanhood doubly betray the Southern woman, first in making her danger greater by exaggerating her helplessness and second by undermining the authority of the police and the courts, which are her legitimate protectors. The report is a valuable contribution to the cause of law and order. It should be helpful in wiping out a disgraceful practice, which is happily growing less and less.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT

NOV 1 1 1931

Lynch Law and Its Application

The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, which includes such eminent men as Mr. Julian Harris of the Atlanta Constitution, Mr. George F. Milton, of the Chattanooga Times, four presidents of southern colleges, an official of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and a number of other influential and representative men, has just completed a study of the lynching record of 1930. They find that two of the twenty-one victims of mob law were "certainly" innocent, and that eleven others were "possibly" not guilty of the crimes for which they were killed. Thus in more than 60 per cent of the cases, there was at least a reasonable doubt as to whether the victims had done what the mob believed they had.

As if such figures were not sufficiently damning evidence against Judge Lynch and his court, the report goes further into the subject. In answer to the defense made by some Southerners that lynching is necessary or even permissible to protect women, the report declares that, since 1890, less than one-fourth of the persons who have been lynched have been even accused of attacks upon white women. And there go the only two logical defenses that have been given for lynching,—the one, that the victims were guilty anyway, and that it didn't make any difference whether they were executed legally or otherwise, the other, that only lynch law protect the white home.

One of the major aims of the commission is the drafting of a proposed anti-lynching statute to provide effective machinery of punishment. It would be most desirable if more effective legislation could be enacted, but, as is the case with the existing statutes, the enforcement would depend almost inevitably on the disposition of the local officials. Why they should be more anxious to enforce new anti-lynching laws than they have been to enforce the existing ones does not appear. A hint as to a more effective, if less easy, solution seems to lie in the commission's report that there is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and the lynching rate. Education and industrial and agricultural renovation seem to offer at least the chance of a cure.

Star
WILMINGTON
NORTH CAROLINA

NOV 1 0 1931

MOB LAW DIAGNOSED

The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, headed by George Fort Milton, Chattanooga publisher, has just issued a report after a year's study of the problem. Aside from the statement that at least two of the 21 mob victims of last year were entirely innocent, the report summarizes:

1. There is real doubt of the guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence.

2. Less than one-fourth of persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white women.

3. Claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict negroes for their crimes is found to be fallacious.

4. Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although grand jury indictments are seldom brought.

5. The rate of lynchings per ten thousand of negro population is highest in sparsely settled areas.

6. There is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status, and lynching danger.

There is an interesting relationship between Point Three of the commission's findings and the general attitude of the law. The mob victim is usually a person of no importance, either a negro, a poor white, or an interloper. That class usually receives drastic punishment when brought into court, whereas more prominent offenders, able to lay out a fine array of legal talent, has a much better chance of easing the measure of justice.

In general, the report of this commission is precisely what thinking observers have believed for years. It is confirmation of a previously conceived opinion, rather than a new statement of fact. Essentially constructive, it is nevertheless minimized in value because elimination of lynching is basically a matter of education, and the course is necessarily slow and tedious.

ST. PAUL, MINN.
PIONEER PRESS

NOV 1 0 1931

Seventeen Too Many.

Findings of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching that at least two out of 21 lynching victims in 1930 were innocent, and that there is real doubt as to the guilt of more than half those killed should fix the brand of mob murder more securely to those who resort to this quick "justice."

Even if the guilt of all 21 suspects who were lynched in 1930 were certain, the crime of their illegal executioners would remain as great. Violation of the law in defense of the law is a contradiction in conduct for which there can be no reasonable defense. Mobs that murder to vindicate the law reveal a contempt for the institutions they presume to defend that hardly fit them to administer punishment.

The guilt of a criminal, the futility of the courts the mildness of legal action against crime may all be cited to support those who take the law into their own hands. These may explain but they do not excuse mob murder. The decrease in lynchings, from a high point of 255 in 1892, to an average of 17 a year for each of the last six years, is an encouraging revelation of the progress of our civilization. Seventeen lynchings a year, however, still are 17 too many.

ATLANTA, GA.
GEORGIAN

NOV 9 1931

SURVEY SHOWS DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS

Injustice of mob violence was stressed in a report delivered Monday by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, appointed by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, after a year of investigation.

Two of the 21 persons lynched in 1930 were "certainly innocent," according to the commission, and 11 others possibly were innocent. The report added:

"There is real doubt of guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence.

"Contrary to popular opinion, less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assault upon white women."

The commission also agreed:

"Claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict negroes for their crimes is found to be fallacious.

"Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although grand jury indictments are seldom brought.

"There is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and the lynching danger."

The report, however, saw encouragement in the decrease in lynchings from 255 in 1892 to 10 in 1929 and an average of 17 a year for the last six years.

Study of a proposed anti-lynching statute for the various states is being continued.

The report was made public by the chairman, George Fort Milton, president and editor of The Chattanooga News. Other members of the commission are: Julian Harris, news director of The Atlanta Constitution; Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, of Fisk University; Dr. W. P. King, book editor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, president of Furman University and of the Southern

Baptist Convention; Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute; Alex Spence, attorney, of Dallas, Tex., and Dr. Monroe Work, of Tuskegee Institute. Ex-officio members are Dr. W. C. Jackson, vice president of North Carolina College for Women and chairman of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, and Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of the latter commission.

MACON, GA.
TELEGRAPH

NOV 1 0 1931

Debunking Lynchers

The year's study of lynchings, conducted by a commission headed by George Fort Milton of the Chattanooga News, has verified a great many things most of those who do any thinking have thought and has placed in the hands of enemies of lynchings an assortment of fact that will help them more vigorously to go about the business of stamping out the most evil practice of Southern civilization.

The commission, in short, has debunked lynchings. It has torn away from the abomination the veil of chivalry and the mask of protection of womanhood which it has worn and has revealed it as a stark, ugly thing for which there is no defense, even if the victim be guilty of the vilest crime and as a practice, which, if allowed to flourish, is destructive of institutions which we value.

For instance, the commission says—and supports its statements—that:

Two of the 21 persons lynched in 1932 were innocent entirely; in five other cases there was no certainty that the mobs got the guilty parties and in six more cases, there was doubt of guilt. In half the cases of lynchings, there is doubt of guilt.

Less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white woman—22 per cent only were even accused of crimes against or attempts upon white women.

The claim that courts do not convict Negroes and that lynchings, therefore, are necessary, is refuted by figures.

Mob leaders can be easily identified, but seldom are because of the cowardice or connivance of officers of the law.

The old notion that it is necessary to lynch Negroes to keep them terrorized where they outnumber white persons is shattered by statistics which show that the higher percentage of lynchings is not in thickly settled black belts, but in the more sparsely settled sections like Florida, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

The commission found also a "probable connection" between illiteracy and crime, in that not one of the mob victims of 1930 has as much as a high school education, one only had gone beyond the fifth grade and 11 were practically or totally illiterate. The commission does not say so, but it would no doubt have found a high percentage of illiteracy in the mobs that lynched, if it could have "psychographed" the mob members. Lynchings are products of ignorance and cowardice. The commission's investigators did find that the "probable participants" in mobs were "poorly educated, propertyless, and irresponsible, often unemployed and sometimes with court records."

The commission supports a statement which The Telegraph has made year in and year out: most of the lynchings can be prevented if officers of the law have the courage to do it. We have said repeatedly that cowardice of sheriffs has been responsible for more lynchings than anything else. It takes time for a cowardly mob to work itself into a frenzy; anyone who has ever seen a mob whistling up its courage and developing its leader knows that. An officer who has the backbone to act in the meantime can prevent a lynching. Most of them are either cowardly or indifferent to the fate of the prisoner.

The commission has done a useful service. Its report ought to be put into as many hands as possible, particularly in the South, which has the claim to 97 per cent of the lynchings in this country. The commission's report is a distinct contribution to the advance out of barbarism which we have been making in the past decade.

BOSTON, MASS.
HERALD

NOV 1 8 1931

SOUTH AND LYNCHING

The research department of Tuskegee Institute has for many years kept a close record of lynchings throughout the country. This, it may be said, is a natural interest for Negroes, who are usually the victims of mob justice. But self-protection did not prompt the commission of distinguished southerners, headed by George F. Milton, editor of the Chattanooga News, which has just completed a study of the twenty-one lynchings in 1930. Its report explodes the old prejudiced excuses for lynching, and shows clearly that most of them occur in places where the economic and cultural standards of both whites and blacks are extremely low.

Probably its most interesting conclusion was that "less than one-fourth of persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults on women." So often is the argument put forward that lynching is the only way in which the southern whites can protect their womenfolk against attacks by bestial Negroes that this finding of a group of southern white men sounds almost heretical. Those who apologize for lynching as a necessary defence of womanhood, the commission said, "in reality doubly betray the southern woman, first in making her danger greater by exaggerating her helplessness, and second by undermining the authority of police and courts, which are her legitimate protectors."

That "there is real doubt of the guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence" is easy to believe. A crowd of blood-hungry men and women rarely possess reason or mercy. The commission's attitude encourages one to hope that the South itself will finally remove the worst stain on the pages of its contemporary history.

CINCINNATI, O.
POST

NOV 1 2 1931

Impeaching Judge Lynch

A REPORT by a group of southerners, organized as the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, reveals that out of the 21 victims of lynching in 1930 two were "certainly" innocent and 11 others were "possibly" so.

The report also found that fewer than one-fourth of the lynch victims in the last 40 years have been accused of assaults upon white women; that lynchings are most frequent against Negroes and in sparsely settled regions; that there is a direct relationship between lynching danger and low educational and economic standards of the community; that claims that lynchings are necessary because the courts fail to convict are "fallacious."

Interesting is the commission's denunciations of "legal lynchings." These are hasty trials or those conducted under pressure of popular passion. These "foredoomed convictions," we are told, are often the result of a bargain struck between local officials and mob leaders, the former promising conviction in return for promise of mob withdrawal.

One might add that legal lynchings are cited as common American malpractices in the Wickersham Commission report on legal lawlessness. The Sacco-Vanzetti and Mooney-Billings trials prove that such legal lynchings are not confined to the south.

The picture is not all dark. While there were twice as many lynchings last year as the 10 in 1929, the rate has decreased from 225 in 1892 to an average of 17 annually during the last six years.

The fact that this commission is composed of prominent southerners, and that religious bodies newspapers and educators are aroused, is encouraging.

DALLAS, TEX.
JOURNAL

NOV 7 1931

One Good Record in Sight for This Year.

IN one outstanding respect this may prove to be a good year after all. With less than two months of it left, the record stands unsmirched by a single Texas lynching. The hope voiced by R. M. Woods of Huntsville, a director of the Texas Commission on Interracial Co-operation, that the year will round to its close without breaking this good record will be shared by all citizens who denounce lynching for the crime that it is.

The record of Texas was a clean one in 1925. If another such record is set this year, there will be encouragement for all forces that are working to put an end to lynchings and to make the mob spirit yield to sober reason.

Not to one, but to many causes, may the improved record for the year be ascribed. The Commission on Interracial Co-operation has undoubtedly exerted a wholesome and constructive influence. The press of Texas has voiced its condemnation of lynching and its approval of peace officers who have successfully defied the mob spirit, in and out of the State. For the first time, men charged with participation in mob violence have been made to face trial in Texas courts.

Lynching can be stopped entirely, if all these factors continue to work strongly together for its suppression.

TEXARKANA, TEX.
NEWS

NOV 11 1931

LYNCHING OF THE INNOCENT

A report of the South's own commission on lynching is by no means without encouraging features, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Chairman George D. Milton of the Chattanooga News shows that in the 10 years from 1919 to 1929, 448 instances are recorded in which lynchings were prevented by the effective effort of officials and citizens. From a maximum of 255 in 1892 the total number of lynchings in the United States decreased to 10 in 1929, minimum for all time, and during the last six years have averaged only 17 yearly, far too many of course, but still a record of advance. This brought the total victims of mob violence in half a century up to 3693, of which 465 took place in Georgia, 464 in Mississippi, 364 in Texas and 349 in Louisiana.

That, of all lynchings, those taking place in the South have gradually increased from 82 to 97 per cent would indicate how completely it is a problem for the South's own solving, even if effort there from other sections were not resented. Reaction came the every next year after the minimum record and in 1930 lynchings numbered 21 and the horrifying summary is printed that of those thus put to death probably less than half were guilty of the ostensible crime for which they were deprived of life. As to two of the 21, it has been possible to show that they were absolutely innocent and reasons exist for believing that 11 others were also innocent.

Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation Survey of Lynchings.

3369

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

NOV 1 0 1931

The Specter Of Lynching

Two of the twenty-one men lynched during last year were innocent and the guilt of eleven others who died at the hands of infuriated mobs is doubtful, the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching in the United States reports. Numerous lynchings involving similar lack of evidence were prevented by the prompt action of officers.

Nothing is easier than to arouse public feeling with stories of brutality, particularly when racial issues are involved. Perhaps the white man feels his heroism. This newspaper came in close contact with volunteer posses searching for two Negro suspects here a year ago last May. It was a beautiful Sunday morning when the long lines of the hunters spread over the woods and swamps of Edgecombe county. Had any Negro man been unfortunate enough to have been found in the woods, there is little doubt but that his body would have been riddled with bullets. One reporter, marching on the edge of a river with the sheriff and his bloodhounds, looked up to see a man on the high bank above pointing a pistol in his direction. He explained that the pistol was held in readiness in case the suspect was found. Later police stated that two Negroes hunted for several days were not involved and that the several score of men arrested had no complicity in the crime.

This is an example of the evil of lynching. The Commission reported that one man was lynched because he offended political opponents and another died because he was to have appeared in court as a witness. There was a lynching in Edgecombe county last year. A Negro, taken from the Edgecombe county jail, was found suspended by a rope around his body and literally riddled with bullets.

If grand juries indict leaders and if prosecutors do not hesitate to see that the cases are speeded through court, perhaps lynchings will be immediately reduced. But it is rather hopeless to believe that marked progress can be made for years to come. Education will have to be the prevailing influence.

DENISON, TEX.
HERALD

NOV 1 3 1931

NO LYNCHINGS IN TEXAS.

The year 1931 is drawing to a close and it has witnessed, so far, not a single lynching in Texas. Texas should feel proud of this record—or, rather, should feel ashamed that it has ever been otherwise. The lynching record is a blot on the state's escutcheon. Though Texas is no worse sinner in this regard than many other states, this can not be said to the credit of Texas but to the discredit of the others. There is not one word of condonement that can be said for lynch law. It is a dangerous form of anarchy and, if carried to its logical end, would wreck organized government.

The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynchings has recently completed its research into the cause of lynchings. The commission finds that practically all who take part in mobs are uneducated and inclined to be vicious in temperament. Using some unusual circumstance as an excuse, naturally lawless men give way to their instincts and take the law into their own hands. The commission brought out the surprising fact that only about half the lynchings were because of outrages committed on white women. Various causes were listed, but in not a single case was the lynching justified.

Texas escaped the odium cf having a lynching within her borders in 1931, or has so far, but there were enough in in 1930 to hold this state up to ridicule for many years to come. Grayson county, as one of the sufferers from this shame, feels it all the more poignantly. But we do not feel that it is fair to "pass the buck" and claim that all those who took part in such a disgraceful affair came from elsewhere—from some other state or section. We shall have, to bear our own humiliation. And it is such that it should make us determined that it shall never happen again.

The only thing that can effectually prevent lynchings is organized and educated public opinion. Whenever the public conscience becomes so thoroughly aroused that lynchers feel sure they will be punished if they take the law into their own hands, then lynchings will cease. But not till then.

CANTON, O.
REPOSITORY

NOV 1 0 1931

Lynching

A commission of southern men, anxious to remove the lynching stigma from their states, has made a report on the subject. Its most important statement points out what everyone should bear in mind when lynching is discussed; there is direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and lynching danger.

Since 1885 more than 4,300 persons have been killed by lynching mobs in the United States. The great majority lost their lives in southern states. From 1889 to 1929 Mississippi lynched 448, Georgia, 457, Texas 346, Louisiana 340 Alabama 302, Florida 236, and Tennessee 200.

During the same period of time there was no lynchings in Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Ohio, however, lynched 11 persons. Nevada and North Dakota lynched the same number, and Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin a few less. Other states lynched more. If there are stones to be cast the blameless New England states will have to cast them.

Lynching is a sign that a state places on itself—a sign that reads: This state is backward. Until the United States can point to a year in which no mob has taken the law into its own hands, perhaps killing an innocent person, it had best hang its head when justice is mentioned.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
POST-GAZETTE

NOV 1 8 1931

The South Surveys Lynching.

GROUND for a more hopeful view of the mob law problem of the South is offered in the report of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, which has just finished a year's survey. Gratification was felt early this year when it was shown that in 1930 there were 40 instances where officers of the law stood firmly and checked the mobs. The commission shows that in the ten years since 1919 no less than 448 attempts were similarly frustrated. The significance of this showing of a more responsible position by sworn officers is not to be lost, although, in the face of 3,603 lynchings since 1889, the prevented cases offer small compensation.

On the side of the innocence of the slain the report gives a lamentable picture. It shows that of the 21 lynchings of 1930, two were undoubtedly innocent and that in eleven other cases there was a reasonable doubt of guilt. The general statement was made that real doubt exists in the cases of half of those who suffer mob violence. It was found that only one-fourth of those lynched since 1890 were accused of the crime of assault always associated with the problem. It was flatly denied that the courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes. One count was a reproach that indictments are seldom returned against mob leaders who are readily identified.

Lynching has been on the decline in recent years, with some exceptions. Occasional setbacks may be inevitable. On the other side is a belief expressed not long ago that this would be a lost crime by 1940. The commission expresses no such opinion. In make-up the body consisted of nine educators, publicists and churchmen, two being presidents of Negro colleges. The study began with the year 1889 and it is to be remembered that in that year a body of the type probably could not have deliberated on the question in any part of the South. This is one indication among many that the trend is toward betterment. Such a survey as that now completed cannot help but be beneficial.

SELMA, ALA.
TIMES-JOURNAL

NOV 1 0 1931

A REPORT ON LYNCHING WORTH READING

The report of the Southern Commission on lynching throws a somber and mournful light on the evil and while the findings constitute a damning indictment of the social conditions where such savagery crops out, there is little ground on which to base hope of betterment, except a steady growth of enlightenment opposition to mob law among the newspapers and influential citizens. The Commission picked the year 1930 to make a close study of lynchings, what provoked them, and who led the mobs on their fell missions. The picture as revealed presents many depressing and ominous features. Of the twenty-one persons lynched in 1930 two were found to be certainly innocent and eleven were possibly so. The reasoned conclusion of the Commission is that there is real doubt of the guilt of at least half of the victims of mob violence. In 1930 a man was lynched because he had offended political opponents, another to prevent his appearance as a witness in court, and in five cases it was the judgment of the commission that the men had been deliberately "framed" for purposes of concealment or revenge.

"The popular opinion that most lynchings are for the punishment of crimes against women is wide of the fact," the Commission's statement declared, "for of 3,693 persons lynched during the forty-one years ending with 1929 only twenty-three per cent were accused of actual or attempted crimes against women, while 77 per cent were lynched for other offenses." Those who apologize for lynching as a necessary defense of womanhood, the Commission maintained, "in reality doubly betray the Southern woman, first in making her danger greater by exaggerating her helplessness, and second by undermining the authority of police and courts, which are her legitimate protectors."

The Commission found that 97 per cent of the country's lynchings had occurred in the South during the past five years, and that while the mob-leaders could have been identified without difficulty, grand jury indictments are seldom returned and often not sought. Officers and other parties present generally testify that they did not recognizes anybody in the mob. This attitude the report said could be attributed only to "connivance and stupidity." Local sympathy or intimidation always brings to naught the pretense that is made to apprehend these self-constituted administrators of the law.

The very impressive report with its fearless findings is signed by George Fort Milton, publisher of the Chattanooga News. A group of able men and leaders in the church and civic life of the South collaborated in conducting the investigations.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE-HERALD

NOV 1 1 1931

The Milton Survey

The report of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching is valuable not because it offers novel findings, but because it puts in authoritative and impressive form conclusions held for a long time by enlightened Southerners. Men like George Fort Milton, Julian Harris and Howard Odum have done an excellent job in joining hands with negro educators of standing for the purpose of driving home to our bosoms and business the cardinal viciousness of lynch law.

What this survey makes clear beyond dispute is that none of the rationalizations for a resort to lynching holds water. Assaults on white women are the avowed justification in only a fraction of the cases of mob vengeance. Doubt as to the speed and effectiveness of the judicial process is palpably indefensible. Assurance touching the guilt of victims is apparently a negligible element in the situation.

What this survey makes clear, furthermore, is that if the authorities have sufficient courage, lynching parties will become few and far between. Not only have many brave officials successfully defied the terror of the crowd, but there is every reason to believe that members of mobs can be easily identified, if representatives of the law will take the trouble to do so. Either to prevent lynchings, or to punish lynchers is not a difficult matter if those in authority are big enough to live up to their obligation.

Mr. Milton's commission is engaged in drafting an anti-lynching statute that will really serve the purpose of eliminating the evil. That is the right direction for the activity of Southerners to take. This is a Southern problem and a state problem. We must avoid at any cost the interference of Congress, which has threatened on several occasions. To make sure that the federal government will not thrust itself into state affairs, the states must make their own showing.

If but 10 lynchings took place in 1929, it is evident that as time goes on we shall have extinguished this plague as a constant factor in our sectional life. That can be done—it will be done, as the forces of expanding civilization make themselves felt in the struggle with ignorance, prejudice and economic inferiority. That is a day to look forward to, the day when the crime of lynch law will have been thrust into the limbo occupied by other expressions of blood-lust and savagery.

MIDDLETOWN CONN. PRESS
OCTOBER 16. 1931

LYNCHING FIGURES SHOW DROP IN '31

Report for First Six Months Encouraging, Tuskegee Institute Finds.

ATLANTA. • Oct. 16.—Compared with the number of "mob murders" in the United States during 1930, lynchings have greatly decreased during the first half of 1931, according to a report just issued by the Tuskegee Institute, of Tuskegee, Ala.

There were 21 lynchings in the country last year—more than double the number in 1929, and more than in any year since 1926. Only five lynchings have been reported for the first six months in 1931.

Figures reveal that during a similar period of depression—in 1922—the score had reached 30 by the time the year was half over.

Commening on the drop in number of mob killings, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings, an organization perfected here recently to wage a campaign against lynch law, had this to say:

"The newspapers of the south with very few exceptions have had a leading part in bringing the number of lynchings down. They have not confined their activities to condemnation of lynchings in the abstract, but they have been tireless in support of governors, officers of the law and courageous citizens who by united action have prevented mob execution of 49 persons within the Southern states alone. Every effort against lynching has received whole-hearted cooperation in the editorial columns of the Southern press.

"Churches, through their ministers and particularly through their women's organizations, have helped to arouse public opinion against lynching. The sentiment against this crime can receive no greater impetus than through the support of organized religion."

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching came into being shortly after the sudden resurgence of "mob murder" in 1929. The same period saw the birth of several other agencies which were organized to conduct an offensive against mob law.

Among these was the Southern commission for the Study of Lynching. The commission is headed by George Fort Milton, editor of the Chattanooga (Tenn.) News. It is now engaged in the work of making a detailed study of the 21 lynchings in 1930.

Recently a parallel commission, composed of the deans of seventeen prominent law schools of the south, has started a study of the legal aspects of lynching. The commission is headed by Dean Charles T. McCormick, of the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Its purpose is to go into all the legal and judicial aspects of lynching to "discover how to make more effective the use of existing legal agencies and procedure, and to determine what additional legislation or legal machinery may be needed in the various states to deal more effectively with the problem."

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is a south-wide organization and now has branch organizations in virtually every Southern state. The first meeting was held in Atlanta by prominent club women from seven southeastern states.

The various women speakers deplored the defense of lynching in the name of Southern womenhood. It was pointed out that attacks and attempted attacks on women constituted the offense of more than half of the 211 victims of lynch law from 1922 to 1930.

A short while after the Atlanta meeting, another group of women from Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas met and decided to join hands with the women of the Southeastern states in starting a south-wide and anti-lynching movement.

"We are profoundly convinced," said a resolution adopted at the initial meeting, "that lynching is not a defense of womanhood or of anything else, but rather a menace to private and public safety, and a deadly blow at our most sacred institutions.........

"Instead of deterring irresponsible and criminal classes from further crime, it is argued, lynching tends inevitably to destroy all respect for law and order. It represents the complete breakdown of government and the triumph of anarchy.

"It brutalizes the community where it occurs, including the women and children who frequently witness its orgies, and particularly the youth who are usually conspicious participants."

GAZETTE
WORCESTER, MASS.

NOV 11 1931

Lynching and the Innocent

From Atlanta is made public the report of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, which closes a year's investigation of the subject. The chairman of the commission is George Fort Milton, president and editor of the Chattanooga Times. Because it is a Southern body, directed to a subject chiefly under discussion as Southern, the findings are certain to carry weight.

Of twenty-one persons lynched during 1930, two were certainly innocent, says the commission, while eleven others were "possibly" innocent. And the very first paragraph of the report is enough in itself to condemn without reprieve the practice of lynching everywhere. It declares, in so many words: "There is real doubt of guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence."

It is submitted that the end of lynching is decreed by this single sentence. Human nature is weak. It is subject to passionate panics that drive crowds temporarily mad with the lust to kill. But, nevertheless, it is human nature. And it is contrary to human nature to hang and burn the innocent.

It is the uncertainty, not the certainty, of justice that outlaws lynching, no matter what the apparent provocation. This report should help to make that fundamental fact plain to all.

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Discussions.

Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation Surey of Lynchings

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Southern Commission for Study of Mob Violence Makes Findings Public

Anniston ~~[illegible]~~ news

Finds That Leaders of Murder Bands Can Be Identified Without Difficulty, Though Few of Them Are Indicted

11-11-31

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 9.—Conclusions that two of the twenty-one persons lynched in 1930 were innocent and eleven others "possibly" so were advanced today by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching.

New York

The commission listed its findings of a year's survey as follows:

1. There is real doubt of guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence.
2. Fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white women.
3. Claims that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes are fallacious.
4. Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although Grand Jury indictments seldom are brought.
5. Lynching is most frequent per tens of thousands of Negro population in sparsely settled areas.
6. There is direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and lynching danger.

The commission's chairman, Georgefort Milton, president and editor of the Chattanooga News, made the report public. Associated with him in the study were: Julian Harris of the Atlanta Constitution; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University; Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College; Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University; Dr. W. P. King, book editor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Dr. W. J. Glothlin, president of Furman University and of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. R. R. Moton, and Dr. Howard W. Odum, of University of North Carolina.

"One man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men," the report stated.

The Negro's political impotence in the South was pointed out as a factor in the "indifference" of officers toward resistance and prosecution of mobs. Women and children, the report said, sometimes were conspicuous among the onlookers.

Georgia led in contributing to the 3,603 lynchings since 1889 with 465. Mississippi had 464, Texas 364 and Louisiana 349. On the basis of percentage of Negro population, lynchings were most numerous in Florida, with Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas following in order.

The commission found that 97 per cent of the country's lynchings occured in the South in recent years against 82 per cent in earlier decades. The commission found 448 attempts at lynching were prevented by prompt action by officers and citizens in the ten years ending with 1929.

"Legal lynchings" were cited by the commission together with instances of hasty trials and "foredoomed convictions" under mob pressure. In some instances, the report said, officials actually bargained with mobs and had "bought off" the leaders with promises of speedy conviction and execution.

The commission pointed out certain encouraging high lights against this dark picture, however. One was that lynchings decreased from the high tide of 255 in 1892 to the low of ten in 1929, and an average of seventeen for each of the last six years. Another was that religious bodies, newspapers and influential groups were united in condemnation of lynching.

LYNCHING PROBERS ATTACK OFFICERS

Advertiser

Indictments Returned In Only Six Of 21 Cases In 1930; Two Innocent

11-10-31

ATLANTA, GA., Nov. 9.—(AP)—The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching says that although mob members generally made "little or no effort to conceal their identity" indictments were returned in only six of the 21 lynching cases in 1930.

The Commission's report, published today said "officers and others present at lynchings usually testified that they recognized none of the mob. This attitude was attributed "only to connivance or stupidity."

Montgomery, Ala.

Of the 21 persons lynched in 1930 two were "certainly innocent, and 11 others possibly so," the report added. In some cases the Commission said it "found reason to suspect that the victims had been deliberately 'framed' for the purpose of concealment or revenge."

Discussing the offenses for which lynchings occurred in 1930, the report says "one man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents, and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men. In five of the other 11 cases, it was not clear that the mobs got the guilty persons, and in the other six there was doubt as to the truth of the charges against the men lynched."

DENOUNCES LYNCHING OF INNOCENT NEGROES

Southern Commission Finds 2 of 21 Killed in 1930 Guiltless, 11 "Probably So."

OFFICIAL LAXITY SCORED

N. Y. Times

Failure to Check Mobs and Small Percentage of Indictments Are Pointed Out.

11/10/31

LEGAL BARGAINING IS HIT

Report Says Courts Sometimes "Buy Off" Mobs With Promises of Speedy Convictions.

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Nov. 9.—Two of the twenty-one persons lynched last year were declared to be certainly innocent and eleven others possibly so, in the report of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, given out today by George Fort Milton, president and editor of The Chattanooga News and chairman of the commission.

Other findings set forth in the report, which is based on a year of study by the commission and its staff, are:

Fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of attacks upon white women.

The claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict negroes for their crimes is fallacious.

Although mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, grand jury indictments are seldom brought against them.

The rate of lynchings per 10,000 of negro population is highest in sparsely settled areas.

There is a direct relation between lack of education, low economic status and prevalence of lynching.

Lynchings have decreased from 255 in 1892 to the low mark of ten in 1929 and to an average of seventeen per year for the past six years.

In regard to offenses for which lynchings occurred in 1930, the statement says:

"One man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men. * * *

"In some cases the commission found reason to suspect that the victims had been deliberately 'framed' for purposes of concealment of revenge.

"The popular opinion that most lynchings are for the punishment of crimes against women is wide of the fact, for of 3,693 persons lynched during the forty-one years ended with 1929 only 23 per cent were accused of actual or attempted crimes against women, while 77 per cent were lynched for other offenses."

"Protection" Plea Is Assailed.

Those who apologize for lynching as a necessary defense of womanhood, the commission maintained, "in reality doubly betray the Southern woman, first, in making her danger greater by exaggerating her helplessness, and second, by undermining the authority of police and courts which are her legitiate protectors."

As to the clal that courts do not convict Negroes, the coission said that in eighteen onths ended July 1, 1931, sixty-eight Negroes were executed by law in the Southern States and 470 received sentences. Eight of the executions were for rape, fifty-seven for murder and three for other crimes.

In several instances in which serious crimes led to lynching attempts, the commission found evidence that "the culprits were defective half wits, whom society, for its own protection, should long since have apprehended and confined."

The report pointed out, however, that practically no public provision has been made for such protection, and termed this state of affairs an inexcusable neglect for which the public pays the penalty in crime and insecurity.

The group, which was appointed by the Commission on Interracial Relations, found that not one of the twenty-one mob victims of 1930 had as much as a high school education, only one had gone beyond the fifth grade and eleven were illiterate. This, according to the commission, suggests the fundamental need of better education facilities to increase the level of public security.

The commission asserted that in most lynching cases, if observers had the will and courage to do it, there would be no difficulty in identifying mob leaders and members. Generally, the mob members made little or no effort to conceal their identity, yet officers and others present in their midst usually testified that they recognized none of them, it said. This attitude, the report declared, could be attributed only to "connivance or stupidity."

Few Indictments Returned.

This type of local sympathy or intimidation, the commission continued, was largely responsible for the fact that indicements were returned in only six lynching cases in 1930, and that so far only four of the forty-nine men indicted have been convicted.

The Negro's political impotence was pointed to as a factor in the indifference of officers toward the prosecution of mobs.

Most of those whom the commission investigators identified as probable participants in mobs were poorly educated, without property, often unemployed and sometimes with court records.

It was declared that officers from other counties as well as stockade guards and other petty local officials in some cases only complicated the situation and at times directly or indirectly abetted the mob.

The commission cited illustrations of what it termed legal lynchings—"hasty trials and foredoomed convictions under mob pressure so great as to preclude all possibility of deliberate and impartial judicial procedure." In some cases asserts the report, officials have actually bargained with the mobs, and "bought off" the leaders with promises of speedy conviction and execution, promises sometimes carried out in the face of reasonable doubt of guilt of the accused.

In this dark picture, however, the commission pointed out certain encouraging features, such as the fact that lynchings have steadily decreased and that the great religious bodies, the newspapers and many influential individuals and groups are united in condemnation of lynching.

Guilt of Mob Law Victims In Half of Lynchings in 1930 Questioned by Commission

Constitution 11-30-31

Two of the 21 persons lynched in 1930 were certainly innocent, and 11 others possibly so, according to the report of the southern commission on the study of lynching, a summary of which was made public here Monday by the commission's chairman, George Fort Milton, president and editor of the Chattanooga News. Summarized, the main features of this report, the fruit of a year's careful study by the commission and its staff, are:

1. There is real doubt of the guilt of at least half the victims of [illegible]
2. Less than one-fourth of persons lynched since 1889 have been accused of assaults upon white women.
3. Claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict negroes for their crimes is found to be fallacious.
4. Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although grand jury indictments are seldom brought.
5. The rate of lynchings per 10,000 of negro population is highest in sparsely settled areas.
6. There is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and lynching danger.
7. Lynchings have decreased from 255 in 1892 to the low mark of 10 in 1929, and to an average of 17 per year for the past six years.

In regard to the offenses for which lynchings occurred in 1930, the statement says: "One man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents, and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men. In five of the other 11 cases, it was not clear that the mobs got the guilty persons, and in the other six there was doubt as to the truth of the charges against the men lynched." In some cases, the commission found reason to suspect that the victims had been deliberately "framed" for purposes of concealment or revenge.

George Fort Milton, chairman of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching. Mr. Milton is editor of the Chattanooga News and a nationally-known author.

Concerning Crimes Against Women.

"The popular opinion that most lynchings are for the punishment of crimes against women is wide of the fact," the commission's statement declared, "for of 3,693 persons lynched during the 41 years ending with 1929 only 23 per cent were accused of actual or attempted crimes against women, while 77 per cent were lynched for other offenses." Those who apologize for lynching as a necessary defense of womanhood, the commission maintained, "in reality doubly betray the southern woman, first in making her danger greater by exaggerating her helplessness, and second by undermining the authority of police and courts, which are her legitimate protectors."

The commission expressed its opinion that the claim that courts do not convict, often advanced as another excuse for lynching, was equally fallacious, for its investigations showed that, in 18 months ending July 1, 1931, 68 negroes were executed by law in the southern states and 470 were given life sentences. Eight of the executions were for rape, 57 for murder and three for other crimes.

Associated with Mr. Milton as members of the commission are Dr. W. P. King, book editor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, president of Southern Baptist convention and Furman University; Julian Harris, news director of The Atlanta Constitution; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University; Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, department of social science, Fisk University; Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina; Alex Spencer, lawyer, of Dallas, Texas, and Dr. Monroe Work, of Tuskegee Institute. Dr. W. C. Jackson, vice president of North Carolina College for Women and chairman of the commission on interracial co-operation, and Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of that commission, are ex-officio members.

This group was appointed last year by the commission on interracial co-operation to undertake a careful study of each of the lynchings of 1930, a work completed only a few days ago by the trained investigators of the commission.

Defectives Among Those Lynched.

In several instances in which serious crimes led to lynching attempts, the commission found evidence that "the culprits were defective half-wits whom society, for its own protection, should long since have apprehended and confined." The report pointed out, however, that practically no public provision has been made for such protection and termed this state of affairs an inexcusable neglect for which the public pays the penalty in crime and insecurity.

The commission found also a probable connection between illiteracy and crime, instancing the facts that not one of the 21 mob victims of 1930 had as much as a high school education, only one had gone beyond the fifth grade, and 11 were totally or practically illiterate. This, according to the commission, suggests the fundamental value of better educational facilities in increasing the level of public security.

As a result of careful investigations on the ground, the commission asserted that, in most lynching cases, if observers had the will and courage to do it, there would be no difficulty in identifying mob leaders and members. Generally the mob members made little or no effort to conceal their identity; yet officers and others present in their midst usually testified that they recognized none of them. This attitude, the report declared, could be attributed only to "connivance or stupidity." This type of local sympathy or intimidation, the commission continued, was largely responsible for the fact that indictments were returned in only six lynching cases in 1930, and that so far only four of the 49 men indicted have been convicted. The negro's political impotence was pointed out as a factor in the indifference of officers toward the resistance and prosecution of mobs.

Personnel of Mobs Discussed.

Most of those whom the commission's investigators identified as probable participants in mobs were poorly educated, propertyless, and irresponsible, often unemployed and sometimes with court records. On the other hand, a number of those identified as mob members were found to be members of the churches, while a very few had some prominence in the community.

It was pointed out that officers from other counties, as well as stockade guards and other petty local officials, in some cases only complicated the situation and at times directly or indirectly abetted the mob. The presence of curious onlookers often had the same effect, the report continued, pointing out that in some instances boys had been conspicuous, and sometimes women and children as well. In three cases the national guard, though on the scene, were wholly ineffective.

The commission found that, in proportion to negro population, lynching is commonest in thinly settled counties and in those with less than 25 per cent of negro population, rather than in the "black belt" and in population centers. In number of mob victims since 1889, it was pointed out that Georgia, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana led with 465, 464, 364 and 349 lynchings, respectively. But figured on the basis of negro population, the percentage of lynchings was greatest in Florida, with Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas following in order. The fact was discovered that lynching, while decreasing rapidly during the last three decades, was becoming more exclusively a southern phenomenon, with 97 per cent of all the country's lynching occurring in the south in recent years, as against 82 per cent in the south in earlier decades.

No Community Seems Immune.

Eleven of the 1930 lynchings, it was found, took place in counties which had had none in 30 years. This fact the commission interpreted as indicating that no community is immune from mob violence and that good citizens everywhere should be constantly on watch for threatening situations. Many of 1930's lynchings, the commission declared, could easily have been prevented in this way. It pointed out that, in the decade ending with 1929, 448 attempts at lynchings were frustrated by the prompt action of officers and citizens.

The commission cited illustrations of what it termed "legal lynchings"—"hasty trials and foredoomed convictions under mob pressure so great as to preclude all possibility of deliberate and impartial judicial procedure." In some cases, asserts the report, officials had actually bargained with mobs, and had "bought off" the leaders with promises of speedy conviction and execution, promises sometimes carried out to the bitter end, even in the face of reasonable doubt of guilt of the accused.

United Condemnation of Lynching.

Against this dark picture, however, the commission pointed out certain encouraging high lights. One is the fact that lynchings have steadily decreased from the high tide of 255 in 1892 to the low mark of 10 in 1929, and to an average of 17 per year for the past six years. Another is the fact that the great religious bodies, the newspapers, and many influential individuals and groups are united in condemnation of the lynching habit.

The commission announced that it also has under way a study of the existing laws affecting lynching and mob violence, and that at a later date the results of this branch of the work would be made public. One of the aims of the legal inquiry is the drafting of a proposed anti-lynching statute which if adopted would provide every state with legal machinery to bring effective punishment to those who take the law into their own hands through mob violence.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation Survey of Lynchings.

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DIXIE GROUP TO GATHER ANTI-LYNCH LAW DATA

Constitution 7-22-31

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., July 21. (AP)—A careful study into the existing laws and administrative procedures in regard to lynching was approved by members of the southern commission on the study of lynching at an executive conference here Monday. This study, which is to be made by the college of law of the University of North Carolina, is intended to develop points of weakness of existing legislation and administration.

The study "will enable the drafting of an effective anti-lynching law which can be adopted by various states," George F. Milton, chairman of the commission, stated.

During the conference here the members discussed the case studies made by staff experts of the commission of the 21 lynchings which occurred in 1930 and determined upon the date for the publication of the final report.

Atlanta, Ga.

Members of the commission are Mr. Milton, chairman; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Nashville; Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina; Julian Harris, of The Atlanta Constitution; Dr. W. H. King, book editor of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church; Dr. W. G. McGlothin, of Nashville, president of the Southern Baptist convention; Dr. Monroe Work, statistician of the Tuskegee institute; Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskeegee institute; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University; Benjamin F. Hubert, president, Industrial College of Georgia and Alex Spence, attorney, of Dallas, Texas.

RALEIGH (No. Carolina) TIMES
Friday, July 24, 1931

GIVE TUSKEGEE CLEAR TRACK IN LYNCHING INVESTIGATION

We do not know whether the commission to bring about the consolidation of the State's three institutions of higher education for white students has yet stuck a pick in the great amount of ground it must excavate. Probably, not. A heat wave is no time for precipitancy.

Meanwhile it is interesting to note that the University has been elected to lead one of those extra-educational programs in which a certain class of high brow college executives and ambitious professors become involved. "The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching," in session at Chattanooga, Tennessee, has been holding parleys, the result of which was that the University of North Carolina, its appropriations cut to the bone, its professors knocked out of a fifth of their modest stipends, is expected nevertheless to make an investigation of the whole subject, and report back. The agency selected is the University Law School. Says the dispatch:

> The study the University of North Carolina will make, with its College of Law serving as the investigating agency, is intended to reveal weaknesses in existing laws against lynching.
>
> George F. Milton, of Chattanooga, chairman of the commission, said "the study will enable the drafting of an effective anti-lynching law, which can be adopted by various States."
>
> Other members of the commission are Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Nashville; Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina; Julian Harris, chief editor of the Atlanta Constitution; Dr. W. H. King, book editor of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church; Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, of Greenville, S. C., president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. Monroe Work, statistician of the Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute; Dr. John Hope, statistician of the Tuskegee Institute; Benjamin F. Hubert, president, Industrial College of Georgia, and Alex Spencer, attorney of Dallas, Texas.

It should be kept clear in the mind that the "lynching" referred to is mob violence as a phenomenon of the Southern States. The crime is bad enough in itself (every member of the mob is guilty of murder in the first degree according to the law books), but it is not going to be helped by investigation by a Law Department that should be concerned with turning out students who can live through the first five years of starvation as attorneys and then find their way around in the courts and practice of a practical world. So to divert the attention of the prospective barrister is to switch him from the great sea of legal lore, on which at the very best he can never hope as a student to penetrate more than the warm surface waters. It continues, in a peculiarly academic and impractical field, a tendency shown at the University for some time of trying to meddle with other people's business, with "surveys" innumerable about this and that.

If the purpose of the investigation is to discover a formula for a Federal Anti-Lynching Law, the project had best be strangled in its cradle. With Prohibition, the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Law, and the Mann Act, we have all the demonstration of Federal usurpation of State sovereignty in the matter of crimes and misdemeanors that the States can accommodate themselves to in generations. There is, too, lynching, and lynching. A Western mob will kill a hundred negroes in a night by gun-fire in the mere lust of race prejudice. It is called a "riot." A Southern mob goes forth and murders some cringing killer or rapist. That is "lynching," hailed by a great hullabaloo about the essential savagery of our people.

Lynching is savagery in the sense that it disregards the laws for which American people have no respect, chiefly because they enact them for themselves—with their fingers crossed. It is a crime that needs nothing of special legislation, especially by Congress. It can and has been punished by courts, judges and solicitors who were brave enough to ignore the presence in the mob of leading citizens of political prestige. Often it is not punished, because of such participation. We, a law-defying nation, have to take the thing as it comes.

But an investigation by the Law Department of the University is worse than useless. R. R. Moton, the brilliant black executive of Tuskegee Institute, every now and then gives us all available statistics on lynching. It is a part of the routine he has inherited. He should be left a clear monopoly of all such investigations.

Asheville N. C., Citizen
Wednesday, November 11, 1931

The Report On Lynching

The value of the report on lynching just made public by a committee of Southern men, headed by George Fort Milton of the Chattanooga News, lies chiefly in the clarity with which it sets forth the facts of this problem. The report contains no new material. Practically every statement which it makes has been made over and over again in Southern newspapers. But it is well to have the whole matter summarized succinctly, and this the report does.

The study made by the committee confirms the impression that very often the victims of mob violence are actually innocent; that only a small percentage of lynchings are of persons accused of assaults upon white women; that the claim that lynchings are justified because courts will not convict is preposterous; that more often than not the identity of mob leaders is well known; that more lynchings occur in sparsely settled areas than in those where population density is greater; and that there is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status, and lynching danger.

Forty years ago, in 1892, there were 255 lynchings in a single year. Now the average per year is 17 and in 1929 there were only 10. That is tremendously encouraging. What is more encouraging is that apologists for mob violence have practically disappeared. Most of the victims of lynching are persons of small mentality and little education, half-wits, in many instances. Most of those who participate in mobs, so far as they can be identified, are described as being, as a rule, "poorly educated, propertyless, and irresponsible, often unemployed and sometimes with court records." As recently as twenty years ago it frequently happened that persons of whom a much higher standard might have been expected condoned lynching and even participated in mob violence. Happily, instances of this character have become very uncommon.

The lynching evil is in process of passing. It will pass. But there is need that the public shall be alive to the danger which still exists; the greater need because the records show that eleven of the lynchings of last year occurred in counties which had had no case of mob violence in thirty years before that. We had at least one instance of this kind in North Carolina. In that instance the reports indicated that the lynching was utterly inexcusable and that it could easily have been prevented. We believe profoundly that this is true in most instances. We know that repeatedly the warnings of danger have been clear and that but for the stupidity or indifference of persons in authority the danger could have been averted.

A later report by the committee dealing with existing laws affecting lynching and mob violence and suggesting a proposed anti-lynching statute is promised. Already, we think, there exists in most parts of the South a body of opinion sufficiently strong and aggressive to support such legislation; and the key to the situation lies, in our opinion, through definitely fixing the responsibility for the prevention of mob violence. Where that is done, and where excuses are not tolerated, it is remarkable how seldom a mob gets beyond control. Those who have seen such mobs at first hand know that in many cases, and we think in most cases, the difficulty of dealing with them was always tremendously exaggerated.

NORFOLK, VA
VIRGINIAN PILOT

NOV 1 1 1931

The Grim Facts of Lynching

The report of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching consists in the main of findings which are or ought to be familiar to the South. With the possible exception of the announcement that the rate of lynchings runs highest in areas thinly populated by Negroes instead of in the so-called "Black Belts," the findings follow familiar lines. They gain new value, however, by being presented in the present form, and by having behind them the high character of the commission and its investigating agents and the careful, dispassionate manner of their approach. For the first time the South has undertaken a calm, detached examination of a form of criminal violence peculiar to Southern life, under the auspices of men of irreproachable integrity. Here, then, is something impartial thorough, and authentic.

And what a tale it unfolds! Consider some of the general findings: That genuine doubt exists of the guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence, and that in 1930 at least two men "certainly innocent" were murdered by mobs; that more than three-fourths of those murdered by mobs over the past 41 years were not accused of attacking white women, and that in the face of this record the traditional pretence of "protecting Southern womanhood" must be discarded; that the claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes is, in the face of the plain facts, utterly false; that in many instances mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, and that the only explanation of the infrequent indictments by grand juries is the connivance or stupidity of officers.

Or consider some of the additional findings: That many of the victims of mobs were defective half-wits "whom society, for its own protection, should long ago have apprehended and confined;" that of 21 mob victims in 1930 not one had as much as a high school education, only one had gone beyond the fifth grade, and eleven were totally or practically illiterate; that most of those identified as probable participants in mobs were themselves "poorly educated, propertyless, and irresponsible, often unemployed and sometimes with court records;" and that although lynching is decreasing for the country, it is becoming more exclusively a problem of the South, where in recent years 97 per cent of all lynchings have occurred.

Scattered through the report are signs of progress, including the lessened number of lynchings, the more frequent resistance of officers, and the steadily rising public opinion against the mob spirit in all forms. To these should be added the high value of such a thoughtful study as is now presented for consideration. But the problem remains. It must always remain, at least as a threat, one must conclude from this report, so long as the South is unable or unwilling to raise the economic and education level of some of its poverty-handicapped and illiterate population elements. Strikingly enough, this report comes at a time when school systems are themselves under fire in many parts of the South. Those who are demanding a curtailment of educational facilities should read the grim facts of this report on lynching.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.
EVE. UNION

NOV 12 1931

BLOTS ON CIVILIZATION

The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching has made its report and it isn't very nice. It seems quite a number of people were lynched and that there is some doubt of the guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence. And, that being so, commentators here and there chiefly in the north, as usual express their disgust and indignation, indict society and speak of the blot on civilization.

Of course, lynching cannot be excused; it is highly illegal and is the absolute negation of the principle that it is better for one guilty person to escape than for an innocent to be punished. But when one observes the ease and facility with which murderers and other major criminals escape justice, principally in the north and east, because the entire machinery of the law is with them and working in their behalf, one wonders if that condition is not an even greater blot on civilization. Certainly, mob justice becomes easier to understand—though not condoned—than a system of jurisprudence so designed as to give the criminal all the breaks, in law and in the ease with which he can find a lawyer to employ the laws in his behalf.

Savannah, Ga. News
Tuesday, November 10, 1931

INDICTED FOR LYNCHING

A serious indictment against the people of the South is brought in the report of the Southern commission studying the question of "lynchings" in the South. Of twenty-one persons lynched, the commission finds that two victims were certainly innocent and that there was doubt as to the guilt of eleven others. The commission might have reminded, too, that in the case even of the guilty the mob had no right to take life. The chief points made by the commission are set forth:

> There is real doubt of guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence.
>
> Less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assault upon white women.
>
> Claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict negroes for their crimes is found to be fallacious.
>
> Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although grand jury indictments are seldom brought.
>
> Lynching is most frequent per tens of thousand of negro population in sparsely settled areas.
>
> There is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status, and lynching danger.

The Morning News has stood against lynching and against making excuses for it. It has urged that lynchers can be and ought to be apprehended and punished. In line, every one of the six points made by the commission's findings is worthy of serious consideration by leaders in areas where lynchings have occurred.

The commission is composed of some of the best, most earnest men of both races in the South. What they have found ought to be taken to heart—and the indictment ought to be recognized, humiliating as it is.

There are two items of interest not included in the investigation and report of the commission. Unlawful killing by a mob of a person accused by the mob, or by a private party, of crime is lynching, whether the victim be white or colored. White men have been lynched and often for offenses less heinous than the unnamable crime for which some suffer. And again, the South is not the only area in which lynchings, so-called, happen. If the taking of the law into its own hands by a mob for violent execution of its passionate decision is lynching—without relation to color or section, then innumerable slayings in the gang-cities of Chicago and New York ought, too, to be set down as "lynchings"—and those communities might well be included in the indictment. A mob may be a handful of gangsters. A mob does not have to be a throng of a thousand.

WATERBURY, CONN.
REPUBLICAN

NOV 1 1 1931

A Report On Lynching

PERHAPS it will surprise some people to have the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching report that fewer than one fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white women, but it should not surprise anyone that the commission should reach the conclusion that there is real doubt of the guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence. Of the 21 persons lynched in 1930, two were "certainly" innocent, says the commission, and 11 others were possibly innocent.

This ought not to surprise anyone, we repeat, who stops a moment to think of the nature of "lynch law." For lynch law is not in the least concerned with establishing the guilt or innocence of anyone: it is concerned solely with gratifying blind and primitive instincts. Those instincts are as easily satisfied with the brutal punishment of an innocent person as of a guilty person. A mob that tortures to death an innocent Negro goes home with its passions as thoroughly purged as if the Negro had been guilty.

Excuses commonly made for lynch law are demolished by the commission, which says that claims that lynchings are necessary because courts will not convict are fallacious. The contrary is true: courts are too ready to convict in response to mob pressure, and this "legal lynching" the commission properly condemns. Moreover, the commission asserts that mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, thus disposing of the plea that lynching cannot be stamped out because it cannot be punished. Grand juries with morals and sand can always bring in indictments for mob murder.

The commission gets at the well-known root of the matter when it says there is direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and lynching danger. Educated, intelligent, well-to-do people do not make up lynching mobs. They are composed of brutalized people whose instincts are under little or no inhibition. It is not a sense of justice that they seek to satisfy when they yield to the mob fever, but the far simpler animal lusts for blood and revenge.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

3372

Negro Press. (Northern.)

3372

A SOUTHERN NEWSPAPER ON LYNCHINGS

Chicago Defender 2-21-31

In the adjoining column is reprinted an editorial from the **JACKSON DAILY NEWS** of Jackson, Miss. This newspaper is easily the most influential journal in the state of Mississippi and, in many respects, is one of the best edited newspapers in the entire South. It is plain spoken and can be said to be independent in spirit. It displays an originality of thought that is seldom found in dark spots as characterize most of the states south of the line of civilization.

But in spite of its fine qualities, the **JACKSON DAILY NEWS** is a southern newspaper, and as such, is incapable of looking at some subjects without hysteria and without deliberate falsification of facts involved. In this regard it weakens its capacity for helping the white people of Mississippi to emerge from the shell of ignorance and barbarity in which they are steeped, and join the great procession toward complete mental freedom. We are assuming that this paper would like to help in such a program—that this is one of its chief reasons for existence.

The editorial we are reproducing refers to an editorial recently printed in **THE CHICAGO DEFENDER** in which we commended white women of the South for taking a stand against lynchings, but reminded everyone concerned that this stand was based not so much upon sympathy for the victims of the mob as to the necessity for rescuing the reputation of white women from mobbists themselves who were doing them more harm than good by their savage raids.

We said that the burning of a man at the stake removed the man burned within a few minutes, but placed a lasting blotch against the name of the white woman involved. We had no intention of being unfair to white women, or of making them reluctant to carry on their fight for complete wiping out of lynchings. We felt that their duties had finally become manifest to them, and that they were doing what they felt they should do for their sakes and the sake of their children who must inevitably suffer in the environment of the mob.

THE JACKSON DAILY NEWS, however, saw something very different in the editorial. It saw in it an opportunity to strike a blow against these women and the fight they are trying to make to help their state. It saw a chance to prod them into a state of hysteria in which they would repudiate their pledges and shout, with the **DAILY NEWS,** that the mob is right and that lynchings must be carried on in the name of white supremacy.

In developing this argument the **DAILY NEWS** goes far enough to deny statements in the **DEFENDER** editorial which it must know to be true, since the facts were first given in the **DAILY NEWS** in both cases referred to by **THE CHICAGO DEFENDER.**

"**THE CHICAGO DEFENDER** editorial, in so far as its references to Negro men and white women in Mississippi is concerned, is an outrageous lie," says the **DAILY NEWS.** "No Negro was ever lynched in this commonwealth while a white woman was shouting to the world that she loved him and gave herself to him willingly. There is no record anywhere of two bellboys being mutilated by a mob because they were said to have been discovered in a hotel room with two white women."

We'd like to ask the **DAILY NEWS** to turn to its August files and see if it cannot find out some facts about one George Robinson, who was shot to death, allegedly by a sheriff in a jail near Jackson.

We wonder if the **DAILY NEWS** remembers Mrs. George Miller, a 23-year-old white woman, who was arrested and, according to another publication edited by a white man in Jackson, "seemed to be more worried about the Negro's welfare than her own or anything else. When told of George Robinson being shot to death at 12:15 p. m. Thursday at the Raymond jail by Sheriff Ford, Mrs. Miller let out a war whoop and sobbed heavily.

OTHER PAPERS SAY

PROTESTS AGAINST LYNCHING

[Jackson (Miss.) Daily News]

Several days ago the **DAILY NEWS** gave gentle warning to a group of splendid Mississippi women who assembled in Jackson to adopt resolutions against lynching that they were doing a vain and useless thing; that their protests, no matter how sincere, would serve merely to call attention to something that inevitably happens when provoked by extraordinary circumstances, and resolutions, no matter how earnest or sincere, cannot curb it.

Melancholy proof of the folly of agitating the subject of lynching by resolutions of protest is furnished in the current issue of **THE CHICAGO DEFENDER,** the leading Negro newspaper of the United States, published in Chicago, which discusses the subject editorially as follows:

"'The real victim of a lynching is not so much the person done to death as it is the constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other.'

"The above sentences were contained in a resolution adopted by a group of southern white women assembled at Atlanta recently. These women came together to do what they could do to help break down the mistaken notion that they desire or appreciate the taking of human life by mobs, presumably in their behalf. They went further in their resolution and pledged themselves to fight mob action with all their might until white men found some other reason than women for perpetrating their most vicious crimes against humanity.

"It is well that white women have begun to realize their responsibility in this matter. The world is rapidly learning to draw its own conclusions which are not entirely complimentary to the women who furnish a great percentage of the excuses for lynchings. People are beginning to ask just why it is that the white man feels he must kill one black man to keep another black man from looking with covetous eyes at a white woman. What is there about a black man or about a white woman that makes such desperate steps necessary?

"Are white women so weak, morally, mentally or physically, that the horrible specter of a lynching must always stand between them and the men upon whom they might choose to bestow their favors? No one with an ounce of intelligence believes that every person lynched in the South on a rape charge was guilty of rape in the legal sense of the term. There is too much evidence to support the contrary opinion, in spite of the evident desire of the white man to keep this information from general circulation.

"There is the Robinson case in Mississippi where a man was lynched in jail for 'rape' while the 'outraged' white woman was shouting to the world that she loved him and gave herself to him willingly. There was the case in Maryland where a man is waiting death in the electric chair for attacking a white woman while it is general knowledge that the man and the woman have been together on numerous occasions, and that she cried 'rape' when discovered. Mississippi offers us another case where two bellboys in a hotel were mutilated by a mob because they were said to have been discovered in a hotel room with two white women. The women, according to evidence, had made no outcry and only joined the 'rape' column after the house detective had broken in upon them.

"We could go on and cite other cases—there are still others where the facts are not quite as clear as these, yet point to similar circumstances. Certainly there is room to support the statements that white women are more the victims of lynchings than are the men killed by the mobs. The sufferings of the man put to death are of but a few moments duration at most, while the woman thus exposed is made a lifetime victim.

"Perhaps this reasoning is a but subtle for the mob-minded morons of the white race who conceive and execute bizarre and exotic forms of torture for black victims, but there is hope for a remedy since white women are becoming articulate. We are grateful to these women of the South who have taken up the fight against lynchings, even though we know their motives are not as altruistic as selfish. Lynchings ought to be wiped out, not so much for the benefit of the black race, but for the self-respect of the entire nation and its standing in the eyes of the world."

After reading the above outrageous libel of southern women, we cannot believe that the good women who met here last month and adopted antilynching resolutions are going to feel like waging a militant crusade against this form of crime common to all sections of our nation when provoked by unusual circumstances.

A few days before that group of women, guided by a professional agitator, met in Jackson and adopted resolutions, a Negro was burned at the stake up in Missouri after confessing that he had criminally assaulted a school teacher. It happened above the Mason and Dixon line.

A few days after their meeting a white man was lynched in North Dakota for the crime of murder. North Dakota is also above the Mason and Dixon line.

THE CHICAGO DEFENDER editorial, in so far as its references to Negro men and white women in Mississippi is concerned, is an outrageous lie. No Negro was ever lynched in this commonwealth while a white woman "was shouting to the world that she loved him and gave herself to him willingly." There is no record anywhere of two bellboys being "mutilated by a mob because they were said to have been discovered in a hotel room with two white women."

A lynching, under any circumstances, is regrettable. It is poor revenge, no matter how great the provocation. This writer, during the past 30 years in the course of duty as a newspaper man, has witnessed a dozen or more executions without the formality of law, and they were ghastly, sickening, revolting in every instance.

Nevertheless, when the leading Negro newspaper of the United States, religiously read by a million or more members of that race, declares that "People are beginning to ask just why it is that the white man feels he must kill some black man to keep another black man from looking with covetous eyes at a white woman," we must confess that the earnestness and vehemence of the many editorials we have written against the crime of lynching is visibly weakened.

There may be instances of total depravity among white women in the South—this writer recalls two that have occurred within the past 30 years—but it is far less common in this section than in Chicago, New York, Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington and other cities where "social equality" prevails, and sexual relations between Negro men and white women are common.

It is not a pleasant subject for discussion, editorially or otherwise, but no apology is necessary for presenting it in this manner. It is sincerely hoped that the splendid group of Mississippi women who met over at the Hotel Edwards last month, at the behest of a paid propagandist of the southern interracial commission, will carefully read and ponder in their hearts the Negro view of the question as set forth in The Chicago Defender editorial al quoted.

DIXIE WOMEN DENOUNCE MOB ATROCITIES

Chicago Defender

1-24-31

ATLANTA, Jan. 23.—Twenty of Georgia's most prominent women, meeting here Jan. 14 in person and by proxy, constituted themselves the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching and affiliated with the recently organized Antilynching Association of Women of the Southern States. Vigorous resolutions were adopted denouncing mob violence and expressing deep humiliation at the state's lynching record for 1930.

"The real victim of a lynching," the resolutions affirm, "is not so much the person done to death as it is the constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other."

"We shall not remain idle, indifferent or acquiescent," the resolutions continue. "We shall carry on a campaign of education and action for the prevention of lynching. We shall seek to have brought to justice persons who are participants in this crime." The statement concluded with a call to the women of all the southern states to join in a movement "to rid the South of a crime which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianiay and destroys our government.

The meeting was called by Mrs. W. A. Turner of Newman at the suggestion of the woman's department of the commission on interracial cooperation, and is one a series of such meetings to be held throughout the southern states for the purpose of mobilizing the women in an effective antilynching campaign.

This campaign was initiated on Nov. 1 when 20 women representing eight states of the Southeast met here and laid out the general plan of organization and action. This was followed by a similar regional meeting west of the Mississippi. The movement is now taking the form of state organizations, which are being set up as rapidly as possible.

WHITE WOMEN TO FIGHT AGAINST LYNCHING EVIL

Recorder

7-25-31

Indianapolis, Ind.

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., July 24.—(CNS)—Forty women from five states, attending the leadership school of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on Mount Sequoyah, near here, have signed a petiton pledging themselves to seek to arouse public opinion in their communities against lynching.

"We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for the protection of white women," says the petition. "We hold that we owe it not only to our own times to posterity to repudiate acts of mobs and lynchers and declare that if our constitution, our laws, our courts cannot protect women, then our civilization is a travesty and our religion a mockery."

The women pledged to arouse public opinion "to the menace of the crime of lynching," by educating the youth of their communities and calling upon the press, churches, schools and other citizens.

MISSOURI-TEXAS MOBS

Down at Sherman, Texas a few days ago, the second member of a mob which lynched George Hughes was convicted and received a sentence of two years in the state penitentiary. This, we regard as a victory for law and order, even in Texas.

Quite naturally, this conviction attracts our attention because right here in Missouri where a similiar lynching-burning took place nothing has been done on the part of the law enforcement officials to bring the participants into court. Not even an arrest has been made.

Argus

It will be remembered that following the lynching-burning of Raymond Gunn at Maryville, Missouri last January, Governor Caulfield professed that his sense of right and justice had been greatly outraged; and that a blot had been put upon the fair name of the state which could only be removed by prompt action on the part of the law enforcement officials. But in this case, as is characteristic of the governor, he soon forgot his sense of right and justice, changed his position, and proceeded to justify his adjutant-general, A. V. Adams, who, with a company of militia, stood supinely by and allowed this horrible lynching holocaust to take place without raising one finger to prevent it. Of course, in a sort of perfunctory manner, the governor "ordered" the attorney-general, Stratton Shartel, to make an investigation; and Mr. Shartel's investigation has fizzled out just as might have been expected, and still nothing has been done.

7-17-31

Then, too, in this connection it may be stated here that this same Governor Caulfield whose sensibilities of right and wrong are so easily touched did, acting upon the advice and counsel of this same Stratton Shartel, veto a law which had for its purpose the abolition of lynching in this state, After thinking this matter over, and putting two and two together, it looks to us as though Governor Caulfield and Attorney-General Shartel have something in common with the lynchers; that is, it appears that they agreed to do nothing about the Maryville affair, and, most assuredly, there is no doubt about their agreement to kill the anti-lynching bill .

St. Louis, Mo.

We call attention to the acts on the part of the Missouri officials in the Maryville case that our readers may be able by comparison to judge between the acts of our "good Republicans" in Missouri and the acts of the officials in Texas under similiar circumstances .

Of course it is our belief that the governor's actions in both instances were influenced along the color line. We get no pleasure out of making this indictment against the chief executive of the state and his attorney-general, but conclusions, by elimination, force us to this belief. Governor Caulfield and Attorney-General Shartel in these cases are running true to form. They are playing the Negroes cheap, just as Charles U. Becker, L. D. Thompson and Larry Brunk are doing. Therefore, so far as we can see at this stage of the game, a clean sweep at the capitol during the next election is the reasonable and logical thing for the voters to do.

Pledge To Fight Lynching

Argus

7-24-31

St. Louis, Mo.

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.— CNS)—Forty women from five states, attending the leadership school of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on Mount Sequoyah, near here, have signed a petition pledging themselves to seek to arouse public opinon in their communities against lynching.

"We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for the protection of white women," says the petition. "We hold that we owe it not only to our own times but to posterity to repudiate acts of mobs and lynchers and declare that if our constitution, our laws, our courts cannot protect women, then our civilization is a travesty and our religion a mockery."

The women pledged to arouse public opinion "to the menace of the crime of lynching," by educating the youth of their communities and calling upon the press, churches, schools and other citizens.

Lynching Protest Mailed to Hoover

Amsterdam News

Afro Association Asserts Evil Has Increased in President's Regime

12-3-31

New York, N.Y.

Five hundred members of the National Afro Protective League have sent a letter through their executive, the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, asking President Hoover to recommend to Congress legislation which would make lynching a federal crime.

Lynching has increased during the Hoover regime and the President has not uttered a word condemning the practice, the letter stated. It was signed by Dr. Harten, who is pastor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church and regional vice-president of the National Baptist Association.

In stating their grievances the members said: "Realizing the utter disregard of government and total disrespect for law and order as displayed by mob spirit and, having felt the barbarous and brutal clamor for satisfaction regardless of innocence or guilt when directed toward our race, we appeal to you, sir, as President of all the people, to use your power and influence toward stopping this barbarous and un-American practice, which has caused the United States to be pointed out as the only country in the world where such barbarism is tolerated.

"Some hold that there are technical difficulties which would prevent Congress from enacting an anti-lynching bill; other legal experts hold a different view. But we feel, Mr. President, that you can say something against lynching that would have a lasting and telling effect upon the nation. The last Democratic President, the late Woodrow Wilson, denounced lynching and mob violence. Former President Calvin Coolidge in his annual messages spoke at length against the savagery of lynching, after which it decreased.

"Mr. President, you have led the way for government to spend $50,000,000 annually to enforce the Eighteenth amendment, while the Fourteenth and Fifteenth seem to be a dead issue. Thus far there is no record to show where our President, Honorable Herbert Hoover, has uttered one word against lynching in his annual messages. Under the present administration lynching has increased and mob violence has taken a new lease on life..."

HOW THEY TREAT LYNCHING IN MEXICO

Word has been given to the world through the press of how Mexico officially proceeds to stop the lynching practice. The International News Service at Mexico City says that the hanging of eighty-five residents of the town of Villa Guerrero in the State of Tabasco by a punitive military expedition dispatched by Governor Tomes Garrido, was revealed in messages received here. The eighty-five were put to death because they had lynched Lieut. Louis Chables, mayor of the town, following the death of a young girl he was alleged to have attacked and kidnapped. The series of events leading up to the slaughter started when the kidnaped girl fell off a horse on which she was being taken to a mountain hideaway. She sustained injuries which resulted in her death shortly afterward. The indignant townspeople formed posses and hanged Chables.

If in the U. S. troops were sent out after lynchers with order to shoot to kill lynching would soon become as extinct as the dodo. Immediately upon learning of the lynching, Governor Garrido despatched mounted riflemen to the town with instructions to punish those responsible for the hanging. The people fled to the mountains. For six days they held out in a makeshift "garrison" high in the mountains. The siege ended when their food ran out. After handing themselves over to the troops, the townsfolk, under heavy guard, started back to Villa Guerrero. Halfway back to the town, the column stopped and under orders from the commanding officer, the riflemen seized and bound eighty-five of the helpless emaciated crowd. Without ceremony they were strung up on [illegible] along the road.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

Negro Press Northern

3373

3373

N. Y. Assembly Urges Federal Aid to Stamp Out Lynchings

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 13.—The New York assembly unanimously adopted a resolution condemning lynching outrages and calling upon congress to enact laws to counteract the lynching menace which has brought disgrace to the nation. The resolution was introduced by Assemblyman Robert K. Story Jr., a Republican from Brooklyn, and was admirably recommended by Assemblyman J. E. Stephens of the 19th New York district in his maiden address.

Defender
2-14-31

Stephens, the only Race assemblyman in Albany, was elected from the 19th assembly district on the Democratic ticket. He was employed as a red cap before his election.

The resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, the people of the state of New York have been deeply shocked by and justifiably incensed over the lynching outrages which have at various times been perpetrated in some of the southern states, and whereas, it is the sense of the people and of the legislature of this state that such outrages have a marked and definite tendency to destroy respect of our people for law and order, and

Chicago, Ill.

"Whereas, the dispensation of justice to and the punishment of persons suspected of crime is not a matter to be dealt with by a group or groups of aroused and angry citizens having no regard or consideration for the constitutional crime and no respect for the adopted and deliberative rules of evidence and procedure; therefore, be it

"Resolved (if the senate concur), that the people of the state of New York vigorously condemn the practice of the people of some of the southern states of 'taking the law into their own hands,' and be it further

"Resolved (if the senate concur), that the congress of the United States be and it is hereby respectfully memorialized to enact with all convenient speed such regulatory or other measures as will effectively end the lynching or other destruction of persons accused or suspected of crime in any other way or by any other authority than by due process of law and by a duly constituted court of justice, and be it further

"Resolved (if the senate concur), that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the clerk of the house of representatives and the clerk of the senate, and to each senator elected from New York state."

LYNCHING LAID TO WEAKNESS

Argus

Investigator Gets Terrifying Sense of the Frail Foundation of U. S. Social Structure.

2-13-31

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—Age-old race prejudice, "a spirit of lawless rebellion" created by the economic depression, and a lack of moral leadership were the principal factors behind the atrocious burning of Raymond Gunn, 28 years old, by a mob at Maryville, Mo., Jan. 12, according to the report of Rev. Gilbert S. Cox who investigated the crime for the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Dr. Cox said that the conditions in Marysville were no worse than in many other communities, and it left on him "a terrifying sense of the weak foundation upon which our modern social structure seems to rest." He urges creation of race relations committees in every community where Negroes form a sub.

St. Louis, Mo.

Community Is Lacking

Dr. Cox found that "the community is only one generation removed from a pioneer society, and since it is somewhat isolated, there is a hangover of those rugged methods of justice that have on other occasions attempted to ignore the processes of law."

Furthermore, Dr. Cox reported, there existed in the Maryville area "an age-old race prejudice," which a neighborhood newspaper reported was " so bad that the sale of a certain tooth paste had decresed rapidly due to a Negro dialect program used to advertise it over the radio."

Dr. Cox found, too, that the economic depression "has created a spirit of restlessness and rebellion."

Finally, the investigator found that there was a "lack of moral leadership" and in the churches a "stubborn opposition to the ethical demands of religion."

CHURCHES INVESTIGATE LYNCHING.

Age

2-14-31

New York
N. Y.

The Federal Council of Churches, through its Commission on Race Relations, undertook to make an investigation of the recent lynching of Raymond Gunn, at Maryville, Missouri. Gunn, who had been pronounced a mental defective, was charged with the assault and murder of a nineteen year old school teacher. He was taken from the court house by a mob, chained to the roof of the school house, which was saturated with gasolene, and burned to death. Dr. Gilbert S. Cox, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who had held a charge for several years at Maryville, again went there to make an investigation of the circucmstances leading up to the lynching.

In attempting to report the facts leading up to the burning alive of Raymond Gunn, the writer of the document said that it brought a terrifying sense of the weak foundations upon which our modern social structure seems to rest. It is admitted that similar conditions, and some worse, exist in other communities. Maryville is described as a normally prosperous community of some five thousand people, settled largely by those from the north and east. It is an agricultural and stock raising center, with exceptional advantages in the way of public schools, a library and even a college. There are five white and one colored Protestant churches, and two Catholic churches.

In explanation of the seemingly impossible happening in the burning alive of Gunn, some of the remote influences which made it possible were noted as follows: Despite the good attendance at the churches, there had been stubborn opposition to the ethical demands of religion. The community was only one generation removed from a pioneer society, and there was scarcely any thought that it was wrong to set aside the law and do as the crowd pleased with a prisoner. Then the element of race prejudice entered into the situation to such an extent, that one of the nearby papers said it had caused the decrease in sales of a widely advertised toothpaste, due to the "Amos 'n Andy dialect program over the radio." The report continued:

LYNCHING GOES WEST

Norfolk Journal and Guide

The north and west have been sitting complacently and paying little or no attention to the lynching parties in the south, proceeding on the assumption that this particular form of savagery belonged to the south and was, therefore, a southern problem. Now, comes North Dakota to the front with the second lynching of the year, the victim white.

Gary American

Charles Bannon, about to be tried for the murder of a whole family, was being held in the McKinzie county jail when a mob of about eighty men, supposedly his former neighbors, bound the sheriff and overpowered the deputy sheriff and took the prisoner out of town and hanged him from a bridge. It is quite reasonable to suppose that Bannon would have been given the full penalty at the hands of the law. But mob law moves with greater rapidity and gives more satisfaction to a gang of blood-thirsty ruffians.

2-14-31

North Dakota seems to have a peculiar inclination for white victims. The records of the state is that, including the present victim, there have been twelve lynchings, eight white, three Indian and one Negro. But that hardly explains the matter fully.

This lynching shows at least two things: (1) that given sufficient provocation, mobs have no respect of persons. They are blinded by passions which will take vengeance upon white persons just as quickly as upon Negroes; (2) that, although lynching predominates in the south, it is by no means confined to the south. All of which emphasizes the fact that this particular form of savagery is a national malady for which the whole country is responsible and must accept condemnation at the bar of enlightened world opinion.

Gary, Indiana.

The country has never accepted this responsibility, but it has an excellent opportunity now that the Wickersham Commission is spending many months and quite a neat sum of the public's funds looking into crime in all of its phases, to bring this matter to the attention of both Congress and the President with a view to remedial legislation. The states have shown themselves powerless and no useful purpose will be served by further evading the issue.

TOO MANY ANTI-LYNCHING BILLS

The introduction of two anti-lynching bills in the House of Representatives of this state looks to us like a bold set-up which says that neither will become a law during the present session of the legislature.

Argus 2-13-31

We can't but look upon House Bill 269 with the suspicion that it was not introduced in good faith, and that its sponsors knew at the time that it could not pass and become a law unless the previous bill was withdrawn. We make the indictment against the promoters of House Bill 269 because we know that they knew, at the time, that House Bill 207 was being sponsored by the Democrats, or at least it was introduced by a Democrat. By the rules of the game, we reason that because the Democrats have a majority of members in both the House and the Senate any bills sponsored by their members would surely stand a better chance of becoming a law than those bills introduced by the members on the other side of the House, especially is this the case if the bills in question have merit and affect the people of the state generally. Therefore, a counter bill by the "good Republicans" looks very much to us like a political gesture to block legislation by the Democrats which, if passed, would break up mob violence in the state.

St. Louis, Mo. 2-13-31

Of course, we understand that the sponsors of House Bill 269 say that theirs is a stronger bill than the one sponsored by their opponents. This may be true, but, if they were sincere, why did they not offer the necessary amendments to the original bill and help push it to a successful conclusion?

Our deep concern is a law in Missouri against mob violence with sufficient "teeth" in it to put fear into the hearts of those who would violate it. We are not interested particularly whether Democrats or Republicans sponsor such a law. It so happens, however, that in the present situation the Democrats are in a better position to pass laws than the Republicans, by virtue of the fact that they have a majority in both branches of the legislative bodies of the state. Then, too, the anti-mob bill was first introduced by a Democrat, Representative Gil P. Bourk, from Kansas City, which bill is now in the hands of the Judiciary Committee. Indications are this bill will be reported favorably from the committee if the committee is encouraged to do so.

There is no use nor good judgment in pushing two anti-lynching bills at the same time. And, of course, we don't want anyone to think that they are fooling the colored people of the state by "messing up" things under the guise of helping.

We shall watch the moves in this matter with a critical eye because we think that somebody is trying to ring in a "joker" to the end that no legislation against mob violence be enacted during the present session of the legislature.

CONTRASTS LIBERIA WITH UNITED STATES LYNCHINGS

Courier

NEW YORK, Feb. 19—A parallel between reports of slavery in Liberia and the injustices visited upon Negroes in the United States is made in the German newspaper, Das Andere Deutschland, a copy of which has reached the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

2-21-31

The comment on American conditions includes reference to the lynching record, and to the attempt of President Hoover, blocked by mass action of colored Americans, to force Judge Parker's confirmation as a member of the U. S. Supreme Court. Referring to these American conditions, the German newspaper says (translated):

Pittsburgh, Pa

"After such successes of Hoover in the struggle for oppressed Negroes, we feel justified in connection with his sudden solicitude for Liberian Negroes, to assume motives other than mere humanity; we feel all the more so since his interest for this little nation does not date from yesterday."

WHITE MINISTERS TALK WITH GOV. ABOUT LYNCHING

St. Louis Argus

Reports Says That Chief Executive Appears To Be Anxious To Do Something To Create Public Sentiment Against Mob Violence

3-27-31

A group of white ministers of this city recently called on Governor Caulfield and discussed with him the question of lynching and its affect upon the people of this state.

Being very interested in the part which the white ministers of the city were taking in the question of lynching, the editor of the Argus wrote a letter to Rabbi Isserman requesting of him some information relative to the conference with the governor. For the benefit of the readers, we herewith publish a copy of the letter written to Mr. Isserman and his reply.

St. Louis, Mo.

Letters

March 23, 1931.

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman,
Temple of Israel,
5001 Washington Blvd.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:

I am informed that a group of white ministers headed by you called on Governor Caulfield recently and discussed with him the proposed legislation on lynching which is now before the Missouri Legislature.

I am very much interested in the part the white ministers are taking in this very important matter, and I am, therefore, writing to ask you to give me the names of the ministers and their church affiliations; who was the leader or spokesman; some excerpts from or the full text of the speech made to the governor; his response, etc?

Also tell me if you had a conference with any of the senators or representatives on the subject of lynching, and their response

Any other information touching this matter will also be appreciated by me.

Very respectfully yours,
J. E. Mitchell, Editor.

March 24, 1931

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Since on Feb. 12th we issued the statement with reference to the lynching in Maryville, we have been endeavoring to arrange an appointment with the Governor to learn just what the present status with reference to the situation is. Last Monday, Bishop Scarlett, Dr. MacIvor of the 2nd Presbyterian Church, Dr. Stocking and I drove up to Jefferson City and had lunch with the Governor. The other men who had signed the statement, though anxious to go with us, could not arrange their plans to accompany us. We learnt from the Governor that he had ordered an investigation by the Attorney-General and that as yet the Attorney-General had made no report to him. He expects to receive a report within a short while giving the results of the investigation conducted by the Attorney-General, upon receipt of which he will determine what further steps he as the Governor can take in this matter.

The Governor further informed us that the Sheriff of the County where the lynching occurred had telephoned him on Friday for a company of the National Guard to assist him in protecting the accused and that that request of the Sheriff led the Governor to assume that he was interested in protecting the prisoner in his custody. The Governor appeared very anxious to do something to correct the injustice in Maryville and also to help form a public opinion so that the people of this state will not tolerate lynching. Our discussion with the Governor was entirely informal. It happens merely that I arranged for the interview, but I was by no means the leader of the delegation. All four men took major parts in the discussion with Governor Caulfield. On hearing the report which the Governor receives from the Attorney-General, we shall meet again to see what further steps we can take.

We learnt there what you undoubtedly know, that one lynching bill had been approved favorably by the Judicial Committee and was being engrossed. We did not interview any Senators or Representatives with reference to it, as our time in Jefferson City was confined to our luncheon with the Governor.

Sincerely yours,
F. M. Isserman.

Arkansas ties Three Other States in Lynching League

Tribune

(By The A.N.P.)

10 2 31

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. —(CNS) Bill Fane was lynched by a mob of white merchants near here Monday. The alleged crime attributed to Fane was that he refused to do forced labor. It is alleged that W. D. Haley, a white merchant, ordered Fane to work on the roads. When Fane refused Halley sought to have the man arrested. Fane would not submit to arrest. Volleys of shots were poured into Fane's home. Fane was later found dead.

Standings In the Lynching League

Washington, D.C.

Mississippi	2
Alabama	2
Florida	2
Missouri	1
North Dakota	1
Tennessee	1
Louisiana	1
Arkansas	2
	12

Stop-Lynching League Making National Drive For Petition Signer

Age

10-17-31

New York, N.Y.

Religious, fraternal and civic o
ganizations are actively coopera
ing with the Women's Sto
Lynching League in its nation
petition drive, and Mrs. Elnor
Johnson, president, predicts th
when the Dyer-Anti-Lynchin
Bill is introduced at the next se
sion of Congress, two million sig
natures will have been secured.

Petitions are being circulated b
members of the Federation of Co
ored Women's Clubs, who hav
carried the movement to ten state
to date. The New York churche
and secret societies are manifest
ing more than passing interest.

When the petitions are present
ed to Congress urging the enact
ment of a law to stamp out lynch
ing, representatives of the variou
organizations which have aided th
Women's Stop Lynching Leagu
in its campaign will be present
The League's temporary headquar
ters are 200 West 149th street
New York City.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

Negro Press, (Northern.)

3374

Protect Our Virtue With Justice And Not Mob Law. Women Demand

Courier 4-18-31 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mississippi Association Protests Lynching Cancer Which Is Hurting South.

JACKSON, Miss., Apr. 16—(By ANP)—Asking justice for their protector instead of "that howling, cowardly creature of the jungle," the administrative committee of the recently organized Mississippi Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching protested against the recently lynchings at Inverness and in Warren county, near Vicksburg.

The document follows: "A protest—There was a lynching in Inverness, Miss., on March 21, 1931. There was another in Warren county, near Vicksburg, Miss., on March 28, 1931. Against these we, the undersigned committee, administrative of the Mississippi Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching, do solemnly protest. The Mississippi women know in their souls that the heart, the life, and the sacred honor of our men are pledged to our protection; but we plead with all our heart that we may find that protection behind justice, swift, clear-eyed and calm, and not behind lynching, that howling, cowardly creature of the jungle, that would pull from our heads and those of our children the sacred temple of law."

STRANGERS DID DEED, SAY CITIZENS

Kansas City

Riff-Raff Begins Drive to Force Negroes From Jobs

MINISTERS ARE SILENT

Downtown Kansas City Knew

Lynching Was to Be Staged

KLAN DEFENDED IN K. C.

Claim Shreveport, La., Auto Was in Town on Day Of Roasting

DOWNTOWN KANSAS CITY KNEW LYNCHING WAS TO BE

A reporter for The Call learned Monday that some people in downtown Kansas City, Mo. knew that Raymond Gunn was to be lynched in Maryville the morning of January 12. In one office downtown the remark was made, "Gee, I wish I was in Maryville this morning because they are going to lynch that fellow Gunn." An hour later news papers were on the street announcing the lynching. The roasting was a cut and dried affair.

MARYVILLE, Mo.—Leading and responsible citizens of Maryville were positive in their statements after the burning alive of Raymond Gunn, January 12, that the lynching was staged by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

A business man who has lived in Maryville all his life stated he was sitting in his car as the mob passed marching Gunn out of town to the school house and that no person who actively had charge of Gunn was known to him.

Flash Klan Cards

Another business man said the remnants of the klan become so encouraged over their success in the Gunn lynching hat they are now fearlessly flashing klan membership cards on townspeople and boasting about what they will do next.

IT'S "MOBVILLE" NOW

MARYVILLE, Mo.—Citizens here have become incensed at receiving letters from all parts of the country addressed to "Mobville, Mo."

Among the cars with foreign licenses, according to this man, was one with a Shreveport, La., license. The "good citizens" of the city are firmly convinced that klansmen from other parts of the country were imported for the purpose of lynching Gunn.

Start Boycott Move

Already the klan members have attempted to boycott merchants in the city who employ Negroes either at their business places or in their homes. One merchant who has Negro servants in his home refused to discharge them and the next day a voice over a telephone advised a creamery to stop buying salt from this merchant "or else."

A well-to-do man here, who owns considerable property, said he expected some of it to be burned any day because he was sur the klan would demand that he discharge a Negro who has been in his employ for more than twenty years.

"I'm not going to discharge this man," he said, "but I expect it will cost me a fire or two,"

Ministers Are Mum

The solid citizens of the town are ashamed of the lynching, but cannot do anything. They realize Sheriff England did nothing to protect the prisoner, but they are too few to demand he resign.

Sunday morning not a minister said a word about the lynching. "What's the use of talking about it?" was the way one man phrased it.

A remarkable thing about the lynching and the feeling which has followed it is that the white women of Maryville and the county have been so bloodthirsty. Many men feel that the fires of race hatred would not have flamed so high if it had not been for the "wild and loose" talk of the women. The women were "strong" or the lynching and said so in a loud voice.

1-23-31

Say Gunn Was Guilty

There is no doubt in this town that Gunn was the guilty man. It is said that in his confession he named the spot where the club was hidden and officers, who had not been able to find it before then, located it readily from his directions. The most damaging thing of all, and one which is regarded as absolutely determining Gunn's guilt was the fact that the murdered teacher's wrist watch was found in Gunn's trunk.

Kansas City Mo

The description of the crime as it appeared in the newspapers also was said to be not as horrible as it really was and this accounted in part for the high feeling against the murderer.

KANSAS CITY MINISTER SAYS KLAN IS INNOCENT

A denial that the Klu Klux Klan had anything to do with the Maryville lynching was made Sunday night at the Budd Park Christian church, St. John and Brighton avenues by the Rev. C. H. Holcomb, pastor of the church.

Rev. Holcomb condemned the mob action and said the lynching was an insult to the state. He also declared Adj. Gen. A. V. Adams ought to be asked to resign for dereliction of duty. After a scathing denunciation of the mob, in which he carefully stated that Gunn was the alleged killer, Mr. Holcomb said:

"A certain rabbi (Samuel S. Mayerberg) is quoted in the daily papers as saying that the klan is guilty of this horrible lynching. The klan is not guilty. I know that. There isn't a klansman in Nodaway county. You who listen to me may be thinking that since I seem to know so much about it, I must be a member of the klan. I am not—but I know plenty of people who are."

GOVERNOR'S INVESTIGATOR WORK IN MARYVILLE

MARYVILLE, Mo.—An investigator from the office of Attorney General Stratton Shartel, sent at the request of Governor Henry S. Caulfield, is in Maryville probing the lynching of Raymond Gunn.

CITIZENS PUT AWAY GUNS AFTER TREMBLING SPELL

MARYVILLE, Mo.—The brave citizens of this city and county who burned one chained man alive on January 12, got a spell of trembling Saturday, January 17, when the rumor arrived that five carloads of Negroes were coming up from Kansas City and St. Joseph to "shoot up the town" and bomb it in revenge for the lynching.

The natives got out their weapons and patrolled the streets. Lights were kept on all night so that the Kansas City invaders could be spotted. Family men locked their doors and prepared for battle. Sheriff Harve England released all the prisoners in the jail, thinking that would be the center of violence. The mayor called Governor Caulfield and troops were ordered out.

On Sunday when it appeared that the rumor was a false one, the citizens put away their guns with a sigh of relief.

WHITE TENN. EDITOR UPHOLDS LYNCHING

Amsterdam News

Despite the oft-published figures showing that less than one in every four lynching victims is even accused of rape, the editor of the Huntington, Tenn., Republican still upholds the lynching mob. This editor in the issue of April 24 says:

5-13-31

New York, N.Y.

"Some of the highbrow journals are decrying the lynching of the Negro at Union City last week. The red-blooded men who have no qualms of killing a mad dog or a rattlesnake are not going to lose any sleep over the deed of the 'mob'. It is generally death for a brute to attempt rape and should be. 'It is death to touch' should be forcibly impressed on these lecherous animals."

Murderous Mobs Are Denounced By Kentucky Women

Courier 3-21-31 Pittsburgh Pa

Form Association For Prevention of Lynching—Eleven States Represented.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Mar. 19.—Sixty-seven prominent Kentucky women gathered here recently on call of the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation, constituted themselves the Kentucky Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching, issued a vigorous statement in condemnation of mob violence, and affiliated themselves with the South-wide anti-lynching association of southern women.

Deploring and condemning mob violence as "an indictment of our civilization and a greater menace than any other form of crime in the United States," the group congratulated Kentucky on its lynchless record in 1930 and called upon officers to protect their prisoners and upon courts to bring the participants to justice in cases of mob violence. A pledge was taken to do everything possible to eradicate such crimes, by building up through all available agencies and organizations a public opinion that will no longer tolerate them.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching of which the Kentucky group becomes a part, was organized in Atlanta on Nov. 1 and already has strong branches in eleven southern states, with an aggregate membership of several hundred representative and influential women.

Each state association as organized has formulated and given to the public a statement similar to that of the Kentucky group and has pledged itself to a similar program of education. Plans have also been made for definite action in cases where lynchings are threatened or take place, and in states in which special preventive legislation is found to be needed.

The women of Virginia and Florida remain to be organized, but plans are well advanced for their early enlistment in this movement, which promises to wield no small influence throughout the South in the moulding of public opinion and policies with relation to mob violence.

South Carolina White Women Join War On Lynching

Tribune 2-28-31

Washington, D.C.

Fifteen Important Groups Represented at Charleston Meeting to Plan Campaign

CHARLESTON, S.C., Feb. 15.—Joining the women of other Southern states in a new offensive against lynching, a group of representative South Carolina women met here last week, went on record with a vigorous denunciation of mob violence, and requested all the women's organizations in the state to unite for the extirpation of lynching.

Nine religious denominations and six civic organizations were represented in the meeting, which was presided over by Mrs. C. P. McGowan, a member of one of Charleston's oldest families, and chairman of the State Interracial Commission. A committee headed by Mrs. McGowan was appointed to extend the organization throughout the state. The resolution adopted were as follows:

"1. We, as southern women representing churches and civic organizations, deeply deplore the rise in the tide of mob violence which has receded so notably since the beginning of the present century.

"2. We abhor and repudiate the use of the expression 'portection for the white women of the South' as a cloak for mob violence.

"3. We urge the adoption of some uniform methods by the southern states in the prevention of lynching; through the action of governors and other officials through the passage of suitable laws, and through the upbuilding of public sentiment to remove this stain from our boasted civilization.

"4. We recommend that South Carolina women join the other southern states in a southwide movement of women for the extirpation of lynching, and request that these resolutions or others of similar import be presented for endorsement to all local and state groups of women, civic or religous."

Representing the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames was present and told of the new movement against lynching inaugurated by a Southwide group women meeting in Atlanta on November 1. Following plans formulated at that meeting, representative women of Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and now South Carolina, have publicly pledged their support to the effort and are organizing for vigorous action. The women of the other states of the South will be enlisted as rapidly as possible.

LYNCHING FIGURES PRINTED IN CEYLON, AUSTRALIA, AFRICA

Tribune

Colored People In England Form League For Advancement

5-8-31

NEW YORK, April 24.—Far corners of the world continue their interest in American lynchings as evidenced by clippings just received by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Lengthy summaries of the 1930 lynching figures appear in the Advertiser of Adelaide, Australia; the Ceylon Observer of Colombo, Ceylon, and the East London Dispatch, of East London, Suth Africa.

The Christian World of London announces the formation of a "League of Colored Peoples" in England, whose objectives are given as follows:

1. To promote the economic, educational, civic and social interests of colored peoples.
2. To advance the personal progress of colored peoples in Great Britain, particularly to assist colored peoples in distress.
3. To improve relations between races.
4. To cooperate with organizations sympathetic to colored peoples.
5. To encourage interest in the welfare of colored peoples in all parts of the world.

Washington, D.C.

At the first meeting of the League in London, it is reported that members were enrolled from India, Burma, Ceylon, West Africa, England, Bermuda, United States, the West Indies, South Africa and China.

LEAGUE DEMANDS ANTI-LYNCH LEGISLATION

Afro-American 12-5-31 Baltimore Md.

WASHINGTON — Demands that President Hoover recommend a federal anti-lynching law in his forthcoming message to Congress, abolish the photographic identification system in the civil service, eliminate clerical segregation, were made to the chief executive at noon Monday, by a delegation from the 23rd annual meeting of the National Equal Rights League.

The league opened here, Sunday evening, at the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, 14th and Corcoran Streets, nw., with the annual equal rights sermon by the Rev. C. C. Somerville, of Portsmouth, Va., and closed on Tuesday with an address by Bishop W. J. Walls, of Chicago, 1st vice-president.

The delegation calling upon President Hoover included: Maurice W. Spencer, president of the league; Bishop W. J. Walls, T. H. R. Clark, chairman of petition committee; Henry Slaughter, of the G.U.O.O.F.; Dr. S. H. Higgins, president National Medical Association; Mrs. Minnie Scott, of the National Association for Colored Women; J. W. M. Austin, national treasurer of the league, and William Monroe Trotter, editor and executive secretary, who acted as spokesman.

"We protest against the stopping of re-inlistments and promotions of colored soldiers, and the disintegration of their units," Mr. Trotter said in part. "We ask you to halt the reduction in view of their excellent service records.

Segregation Scored

"One year ago, we asked you to act against lynching and federal segregation. You said you would consult with your advisors and act upon plans which you believed would stop lynching. We have waited patiently but we have no evidence of any action against lynching and the herding of federal employees in separate positions, rest rooms and eating facilities.

"In behalf of 400,000 colored soldiers, who risked their lives in the World War, we petitioned you on Armistice Day to recommend a federal anti-lynching law in your forth-coming message to Congress. We are here again to protest against the failure to protect equality of rights to life and security, and political rights in the South.

"We are seeking redress by your recommendation to Congress for a federal law against mob murders, and the enforcement of the 15th amendments."

President Speaks

In addition to the annual sermon in the initial session, an outline of the program and purpose of the organization was given by the president, M. W. Spencer. The welcome address was made by the Rev. H. D. Tillman, pastor of the John Wesley Church.

Monday's session opened with the singing of the National Negro Anthem, followed with remarks by Mr. Spencer, enrollment of delegates, and a discussion on "For the Good of the Organization." The topics for the evening session was "Lynching and Federal anti-Lynching Law and Segregation."

Bishop W. J. Walls presided at the Monday evening session, when Mr. Spencer delivered his annual address. Others to speak were: Mr. Trotter and the Rev. B. W. Swain, second vice president.

The abolishment of the photographic identification system in the civil service and the treatment accorded colored Gold Star Mothers by the War Department, were the discussions at the Tuesday morning session. The status of the colored army troops in the reorganization of the service, was taken up by the group just prior to the election of officers at the afternoon session.

DePriest Speaks

Congressman Oscar DePriest, whose non-partisan conference begins its three-day session, Wednesday, spoke at the evening session. Others to speak were: Bishop Walls and the Rev. B. W. Swain, of Louisville, presided.

Lynchings-1931

Negro Press, Northern.

Discussions.

What the Press Thinks of Maryland's Shame

Lynch Land

Louis Azrael in the Baltimore Post

12/7/31

You have—or should have—read how the mob cut down the body and dragged it, at the head of a gruesome parade, through Main Street to a vacant lot, and how it poured gasoline upon it and set the body ablaze.

And, with blood-lust still unquenched, the mob then dragged the body back; back through Main Street for a full half-mile, into the section which the colored folk live, and there they hanged it up again, as a lifeless symbol to the colored folk.

Afro-American

A symbol, the white folk told me later, of the fact that the Negro must keep his place, but a symbol more truly, of the fact that there can be no beast like the beast that lurks in the human mind; lurks deep down in those who are civilized; lurks near the surface of the less civilized.

Baltimore, Md.

I talked to the countians. From the highest to the lowest, with but a few exceptions, I found no regret for the lynching, but only regret because their town was being presented to the public in an unfavorable light.

Standing on the corners, and on the Courthouse square where the lynching had occurred, I heard other things, too. There was one man who is now on the grand jury which is supposed to help punish the culprits. "We've nothing to be ashamed of," he said. "The people of the Eastern Shore are more intelligent and better educated, on the whole, than the people of Baltimore."

And Levin Bailey, the State's Attorney, before he had interviewed one witness, went to great pains to explain to me that evidence against the lynchers couldn't be obtained, because the witnesses wouldn't talk and the Chief of Police said he had recognized none of the mobsters. And the general attitude was that a good job had been done and that the people who did it were to be protected.

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Salisbury, Golgotha

From Elkton (Md.) Weekly (white)

Barbarism raised its fiendish and ravaging hand in a most heinous fashion at Salisbury last Friday night when a murderous and infuriated mob, saturated with revenge and grim malignancy, dragged a Negro from a cot in a hospital, where he lay blinded, to the Court House Square several blocks away and hanged him from a tree.

This diabolical act in which atrociousness was further emphasized by the burning of the victim's dead body, strikes back as a bitter mockery to the century old "law abiding spirit" claim of that section when its citizens, with bitter deliberation, dragged the fair name of the State of Maryland down to disgrace and in their orgy of a most repugnant crime, changed the regard of a community that heretofore has been heralded as the Garden Spot of the State, into a Golgotha.

o

The I.L.D.

From the Boston Guardian

The barbarous lynching of a young hard-working man, charged with killing his white employer over low wages, in the same section of Maryland, certainly supports the contention as to the Orphan Jones case on the part of the I.L.D. This organization is doing a most brave, most noble defense work in the South against legal-lynching.

What Will Congress Do?

From New Orleans (La.) Weekly

The lynching last week in Salisbury, Md., within a stone's throw of the capital of the Nation, is food for Congress to feed upon. While Senators will argue heatedly and debate fiercely numerous questions of lesser importance than the guarantee of safety to black citizens of America, twelve millions of under-privileged citizens will at least be concerned in one thing, viz: what will Congress do about lynchings?

Afro-American

Guilty or Not; Who Knows?

An open letter to the Baltimore Sun, by the Rev. W. W. Walker, pastor of the Madison Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Md.

I note that in all your editorials and articles on Lee, Davis and Williams, you seem to take for granted that the accused are guilty; your editorials and articles never say "the accused rapist" or "accused murderer," but "the rapist," "the murderer." 12-19-31

Who knows whether, when a fair trial is given, the evidence produced might not point to some other party or parties?

Baltimore, Md.

For instance, take the case of Williams, charged with the murder of a white man of Salisbury; may not the son of the murdered man have perpetrated the crime? Who knows? According to newspaper reports, this son did some shooting. Who knows how much shooting he did?

Such things have happened ever since the days of Naboth and his vineyard down to Ruth Snyder, and such happenings are still going on. How many persons have been put out the way to keep them from squealing, only God knows.

I am not saying that this is the true solution of that case, but I am saying that a paper that has and still is standing firmly for the orderly operation of law, regardless of race, color or creed, should be fair enough to say "the accused" until guilt has been proved by course of law and fair trial.

Salisbury Not in Maryland

Afro-American

Baltimore Catholic Review (white)

12-9-31

In the streets, in the trolley cars, in restaurants, barber shops—everywhere the flames of indignation and the flames of contempt for the murderers of Salisbury leap far higher than leaped the flames from the dead body of the Negro who was taken, strait-jacketed, wounded, eyes bandaged, from a hospital, which was supposed to be a sanctuary in the "Land of Sanctuary."

Not one bright light has shone through the blackness of Salisbury's deed. Men and women who had a duty to protect the poor wretch who was lynched, men who had taken oath to uphold the dignity of the law and the sacredness of the courts of justice proved recreant to their word. They proved false to themselves, to their plighted word, to their citizenship in Maryland and their citizenship in the United States.

Baltimore, Md.

No wonder Maryland disowns them. Physically they belong to Maryland but in sympathy with Maryland's ideals, Maryland's high principles of honor and justice they do not belong.

o

A Hamfat Alibi

Annapolis (Md.) Capital

The psychological explosion which caused a mob to violently take the law into their own hands would probably not have occurred if the legal machinery had functioned smoothly and without delay in bringing Lee to trial

The Eastern Shore Kultur

H. L. MENCKEN, in The Baltimore Evening Sun

12/7/31

Not many observant Marylanders, I take it, were surprised by the news of last Friday's extraordinarily savage and revolting lynching at Salisbury. Something of the sort had been plainly hatching down in that forlorn corner of the State for a long while. There was a time, years ago, when it was the seat of an urbane and charming culture, dominated by an enlightened and public-spirited gentry, but of late it has succumbed to its poor white trash, who now determine its ideas and run its affairs. The Ku Klux Klan, which was laughed at in all the more civilized parts of Maryland, got a firm lodgment in the lower counties of the Shore, and the brutish imbecilities that it propagated are still accepted gravely by large numbers of the people, including not a few who should know better.

Afro-American

The whole area is a lush stamping-ground for knavish politicians, prehensile professional patriots, and whooping soul-savers. It is, quite naturally, a stronghold of Prohibition (and of the rot-gut liquors that go therewith) and within its bounds tinpot revivalism is making its last stand in Maryland.

Baltimore, Md.

There could be no better indication of the depths to which public opinion has sunk in Wicomico and Dorchester counties than the comments of the two local papers, the Salisbury Times and the Cambridge Daily Banner, upon the lynching. The latter, to be sure, deplored it formally, but only formally.

The former went to the almost incredible length of dismissing the atrocity as a "demonstration." Well, the word somehow fits. It was indeed a demonstration of what civilization can come to in a region wherein there are no competent police, little save a simian self-seeking in public office, no apparent intelligence on the bench, and no courage and no decency in the local press.

Certainly it would be silly to think of the lynching as if it was an isolated incident. It was, in fact, nothing of the sort. It was the natural culmination of a degenerating process that has been in progress for years.

At least since the World War the lower Shore has been going downhill, mentally and morally. It has been sliding out of Maryland and into the orbit of Arkansas and Tennessee, Mississippi and the more flea-bitten half of Virginia. Time and again the whole State has been menaced by the peculiar swinishness of its boozing-dry politics, and now it holds us all up to the contempt of the nation and the world by staging a public obscenity worthy of cannibals.

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Teachers Wire Ritchie

To Governor Albert C. Ritchie, Annapolis, Md.:—

The Pennsylvania State Negro Council in session at Cheyney, Pa., today desires to express its appreciation of the fact that you have denounced the lynching which has covered Maryland with shame, weakened respect for law and brought a sense of insecurity to helpless citizens everywhere.

We now earnestly and respectfully urge you to bring to justice, prompt and impartial, those who are responsible for this mob violence which strikes at the roots of our American democracy.

Is Governor Ritchie Fit to be President?

Afro-American

Andrew Simon in the Baltimore Evening Sun.

I have been down in the lynching country; down in Salisbury.

You and I helped drag that Negro out of the hospital, and you and I helped place the rope. You did it and I did because we are a part of public opinion—a very slack public opinion, but a public opinion that should have been so strong that no officer in the United States would have dared to have so forgotten his duty; that no authorities of a hospital would submit to the sacrilege committed except over their dead bodies; that no Governor of a State would wait to "investigate" before making a "statement."

Baltimore, Md.

Are you and I going to keep silent, and because of our indifference allow another disgraceful procedure to occur? I am afraid no Governor of a State that is not strong enough to prevent a barbaric lynching is Presidential material, at least in the eyes of his sister States. Until you and I do more than shudder we can expect mob violence to be our law.

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Maryland Rivals Texas

From Houston (Texas) Informer

Hon. Thomas Watt Gregory, white former attorney general of the United States in his speech before the Texas Interracial Commission on November 6, last, described the lynching of Robert Powell in Houston on the eve of the Democratic convention in 1928, as the most dastardly crime that had been called to his attention.

In Salisbury, Md., last week Mathew Williams, wounded, was taken from his hospital cot by a jungle mob, hanged to a tree in the court house yard, and then his body was burned to ashes on the edge of the colored district.

If Houston's lynching was "an act of unspeakable savagery," this recent outrage of law (burning) and order was a more unspeakable act of barbarism. In thus destroying the orderly processes of government Maryland not only rivals Houston, it surpasses it in wanton bestiality and in gruesome heinousness.

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White Superiority

Thomas L. Hunter in the Richmond Times-Dispatch

The white man of America boasts of his racial superiority to the Negro, and yet it is a fact, too well supported by evidence for any dispute, that the white man has perpetrated more crimes against the Negro than the Negro has perpetrated against him. On this subject the less said the better for the white man's case.

But that is not the point. The white man makes the laws of Maryland, and of every other State in this Union. Those laws are amply adequate to deal with a murderer and punish him for his crime.

If 200 people murder a man in cold blood they do not divide the guilt into 200 parts. Each man of the mob is just as guilty as if he had murdered the accused man alone.

The Lynching Spirit of 1931

Amsterdam News

SINCE 1882 the Negro has paused in the midst of his Yuletide festivities each year to count up the number of persons who have met death at the hands of lynching mobs. Including the year 1931 the number of such victims totals 4,776, of which 3,399 have been colored and 1,377 white. The number of lynchings during a given year have varied from 210 in 1884 to 10 in 1929, the largest and smallest number recorded in the New Year Book. While on the whole the number has steadily declined, the spirit which spurs the lynching mob on to murder and burn is just as alive today as it was in 1884. 12-30-31

DURING 1931 there have been 15 lynchings, 2 of which were not recorded as such by the department of research of Tuskegee Institute. Nearly 90 persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs. Two of the victims were white. The dishonorable role by states follows:

New York, N.Y.

Mississippi	3
Alabama	2
Florida	2
West Virginia	2
Missouri	1
North Dakota	1
Tennessee	1
Louisiana	1
Arkansas	1
Maryland	1
Total	15

THE OFFENSES alleged in lynchings do not mean very much; and even the white women of the South have taken steps to refute the age-old argument that attacks on them are the main cause. This year's total is 6 less than the 21 recorded during 1930, which were examined in detail by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching and whose summary, recently made public, is illuminating. The commission found that at least two of the victims were innocent and that there is real doubt of the guilt of at least half of the others; that less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white women; that the claim that lynchings are necessary because the courts do not convict colored persons of their crimes is fallacious; that mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although Grand Juries rarely indict them; that the rate of lynchings per thousand of Negro population is highest in sparsely settled areas; and that there is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and the lynching danger.

EXCEPT for the one atrocity in North Dakota, in which the victim was a white man, the other 14 lynchings took place in Southern states where, by far the larger number of them have always been staged and where the majority of Negroes still live. Once the Negro moves out of this mob-ridden area into a Northern state he all but forgets that the eradication of the lynching evil is still his problem and that he must continue to fight it with every weapon he can command no matter where he lives—in the North or South—for every time a colored man is lynched anywhere in the United States he suffers the same fate in spirit.

Want to Make the Lynch District Defenceless

Afro-American

State police are reported as holding up colored autoists in the neighborhood of Salisbury, Maryland's lynchtown, and searching cars for firearms.

The search is illegal because there is no law forbidding autoists from carrying pistols in their machines.

In addition, it is dastardly because only colored drivers are being stopped by police.

The purpose of this outrage is to prevent colored people of the lynching section from procuring firearms and ammunition.

It will, however, fail in its purpose, because it will but advertise to thoughtful persons the need of arms and impress upon them that arms should be had under any circumstances.

Smuggling on a large scale is bound to result, and those who think will also discover that mail order houses are still in existence and will send shotguns by mail to any who have the price.

Baltimore, Md.

There should not be many persons who need new firearms. Most of those who have lived for any time in the lynching district, have seen the necessity for such protection and provided themselves with it.

SEE CHANCE TO BREAK UP MOB RULE IN SOUTH

Chicago

Cause Is Championed by Rep. Chamlee

Defender

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 11. —An effect of communist enterprise in the South was discerned here Wednesday in the introduction of an antilynching bill into the house of representatives by Representative George Chamlee Jr. of Hamilton.

12/19/31

Representative Chamlee is the son of George Chamlee of Chattanooga. Mr. Chamlee of Chattanooga is a lawyer who has been retained through the interest of the International Labor Defense, a communist organization, to act in behalf of the eight boys sentenced to die at Scottsboro, Ala., for the alleged commission of rape upon two white girls.

The measure introduced by the Junior Chamlee provides for the payment by the county of $1,000 to $5,000 of the person lynched, or their dependents, in case of injury or death. For beating or serious injury the victim can recover $1,000; for permanent disability, $5,000, and a like amount to his dependents in case he dies.

While the county would be obligated for damages, it may recover from any member of the mob or may issue a special levy to pay for the lynching.

A mob is described in the measure as "a collection of people assembled for an unlawful purpose and intending to do damage or injury to anyone or pretending to exercise correctional power by violence."

GOVERNORS TELL NAACP OF STAND ON LYNCHING

Afro-American

12/19/31

NEW YORK—The governors of two states in which there have been recent lynchings, Maryland and West Virginia, are giving assurance of prompt and vigorous action to apprehend and punish the lynchers, in response to telegrams sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Governor Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland writes to the N.A.A.C.P. in response to its recent telegram:

> "The State authorities are taking all measures they can to apprehend the perpetrators of the Williams lynching. I enclose you editorial from a Baltimore paper, summarizing the situation so far as the steps I am taking in the matter are concerned."

Baltimore, Md.

Orders Prosecution

The editorial reveals that on December 5, Governor Ritchie "ordered the Attorney-General to prosecute the members of the Salisbury mob which had lynched the Negro, Matthew Williams."

Concerning Governor William G. Conley, of West Virginia, T. G. Nutter of Charleston, member of the N.A.A.C.P. national board of directors, telegraphs:

> "Governor thoroughly aroused over dastardly crime and is making a thorough-going investigation. Three brothers under arrest and have confessed their participation in the crime. A special grand jury may be called and number indictments are expected to be returned. Governor answered your wire today. Letter follows. The committee waited on him today."

Man's Toes Cut off by Mob at Salisbury

Baltimore

Afro-American

SALISBURY, [illegible]—The Marylander and Herald, published at Princess Anne, reports that one member of the mob which on December 4 lynched Matthew Williams, charged with murder, cut several toes from the squirming man's feet and carried them away as souvenirs.

Williams, who was taken from a hospital bed, wore only a night gown. His head was bandaged and his body was in a strait-jacket, due to his wounds.

The rope was thrown over the limb of a treee by a white Salisbury school boy, the Berlin-Ocean City News reports, and adds that the lynching took place amid shouts of glee, "kicking and screaming" of the mob members.

Old Salisbury citizens shake their heads sadly over the outrage of the mob. "Nothing can save us except a bunch of funerals," they told the AFRO.

According to their report, during the war and subsequently, the whole Eastern Shore suffered an influx of poor whites from the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, who came to find employment in factories which had contracts to make munitions, boxes and containers for the government.

These poor whites, illiterate in many cases, changed the entire community into a ferment of suspicion and Ku Kluxery.

Several weeks ago an old Salisbury resident, returning home after a long absence, went into a store to greet a white childhood friend. As they stood shaking hands, they were pushed aside by a white new-comer who said they blocked his way.

A few words followed and the newcomer was slapped down. The police magistrate refused him a warrant and the newcomer whined, "Do you let them treat a white man like that?"

Lynchings-1931
Discussions

Negro Press, Northern.

3376

Congress to Be Urged to Enact a Federal Measure Against Mob Rule During Its Present Session

12-26-31

New York, N.Y.

Southern Commission's Recommendations: Georgia, Mississippi and Texas Lead in Lynchings

By LESTER A. WALTON.

In both North and South, legislative enactment is being prescribed as an effective antidote for mob violence; and present indications are that during 1932 an unprecedented number of anti-lynching bills, in one from or another will be introduced in Congress and the State Legislatures.

Never in the country's history has agitation against lynching been so pronounced and widespread as now. White and colored citizens, living in all sections, have organized collectively and separately to stamp out this nationad disgrace.

It is interesting to note that the most significant of these movements comes out of the South. After a year's careful study of the 21 lynchings in 1930, the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching has just issued an 8-page impeachment of a mob law—an exhaustive, informative, unbiased document.

Headed by George Fort Milton, president and editor of the Chattanooga (daily) News, the commission is made up of the following white and colered leaders of the South: Julian Harris, news director of the Atlanta Constitution; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University; Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Department of Social Science, Fisk University; Dr. W. P. King, book editor of the M. E. Church, South; Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, president of rman University, and of the rn Baptist Convention; Dr. ton, principal of Tuskegee; Dr. Howard W. Odum of the University of North Carolina; Alexander W. Spence, lawyer, of Dallas, Tex., and Dr. Monroe N. Work of the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute. Ex-officio members—Dr. W. C. Jackson, vice-president of North Carolina College for Women, and chairman of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, and Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Organizations Want Federal Law.

At the 72nd session of Congress, Senators and Representatives will find lynching keeping company with prohibition as a major domestic issue if the plans of organizations actively working for the passage of a Federal anti-lynching bill do not go awry.

For three months the Women's Stop Lynching League has been circulating petitions for signatures among Negro churhces, lodges, civic and social organizations in twenty Northern States. The petitions, urging the enactment of the Dyer anti-lynching bill, will be presented to the members of Congress. This league of Negro women has headquarters at 200 West 149th street New York City. Mrs. Elnora Johnson, president envisages the daily presence in Washington of militant females industriously and insistently working to secure favorable consideration of the measure. Chicago

When William Monroe Trotter of Boston, and fellow members of the National Equal Rights League recently visited the White House and unsucessfully sought to get a definite commitment from President Hoover on a legislative program against lynching, the Negro delegation departed expression determination to carry on their fight in the halls of Congress. 12-26-31

For years the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dr. J. E. Spingarn, president, in and out of season has aggressively and consistently bent its energies and resources to securing Federal anti-lynching enactment. When the battle waxes hot between proponents and opponents of the bill the association will be in the thick the fray as in previous year.

New York, N.Y.

Southern Lawyers to Study Legal Aspects

In its report, the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching anounces that among other phases of the general lynching problem which it has undertaken to study has been that of its legal aspects. For this purpose a general section has been set up with an advisory committee of Southern law school deans, and will be made by the University of North Carolina School of Law, with James H. Chadbourn as research secretary, working under the immediate supervision of Dean Van Hecke and faculty.

Investigations in this particular field includes collecting statutes, ascertaining the effectiveness of existing laws, and in cass of failure seeking to determine the points in which the lagal machinery breaks down. The hope of the commission is that an anti-lynching statute can be drafted, which if adopted, would implement every state with legal machinery to bring proper punishment to those who take the law into their own hands.

The general findings of the commission have been primarily based on its survey of moblawry in 1930; nevertheless, with a detachment remarkable in compelling candor and rare restraint, it draws a factual picture of the general aspects of lynching from 1889 to September 15, 1931. During that period 3,733 persons met death at the hands of the mob. Between 1889 and 1929, the total number of men, women and children lynched in the United States was 3,703. Up to September 15 of this year an additional nine lynchings had occurred.

Nine States on Honor Roll

Nine commonwealths have not been disgraced with a lynching since 1900. On the honor roll are Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

For the thirty-two year period Georgia leads in the number of lynchings—302, and is followed by Sissississippi with 285 and Texas with 201. The records of other states from 1900 t othe first 9 months of 1931 follow: Aalbama 132; Arizona, 4; Arkansas, 127; California, 12; Colorado, 7; Delaware, 1; Florida, 170; Idaho, 2; Illinois, 13; Indiana, 8; Iowa, 3; Kansas, 8; Kentucky 68; Louisiana, 172; Maryland, 6; Michigan, 1; Minnesota, 3; Missouri, 40; Montana 9; Nebraska, 3; Nevada, 3; New Mexico, 6; North Carolina, 35; North Dakota, 5; Ohio, 5; Oklahoma, 48; Oregon, 4; Pennsylvania, 1; South Carolina, 71; South Dacota, 2; Tennessee, 76; Utah, 1; Virginia, 26; Washington, 2; West Virginia, 13; Wisconsin, 1 and Wyoming 9.

A map prepared by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute shows the exact location of 1,595 out of 1,886 lynchings between 1900 and 1931.

Of the 3,703 lynched from 1889 through 1929, there were 787 white victims, or 21.3. Between 1889 and 1899, 32.2 per cent of all persons lynched were white. In 1930 only one, or 4.8 of the 21 lynched were white. Approximately 90 per cent of those who met death by mob law in the South during the last three decades were Negroes. And if Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma were excluded-states where many Mexicans have been lynched—the percentage would be nearly 95 per cent Negro.

There seems to be a relation between the weather and crime, as lynchings are more prevalent in summer months.

Negroes Safer in Black Belt

Statistically, per ten thousand population Negroes are safer from mob violence in the old Black Belt, where more than half of the population is Negro, than anywhere else in the South. They are relatively less safe in Counties with one-fourth to one-half Negro population, while per ten thousand Negro population, they are in the greatest danger from mobs in counties where the proportion of Negroes is less than one-fourth. Mob murders are relatively most common in sparsely settled areas.

Of the 254 persons lynched from 1921 through 1929, 112 or 44.1 per cent never came into custody of the law. An additional 74 of 29.1 per dent were taken fdom peace officers outside of jails, while the remainign 68, or 26.8 per cent, were taken from jails.

The commission points out that lynchers cannot justify their actions on the ground that unless they dispose of the accused Negro the courts will likely dismiss the case or treat it lightly, for data secured from superintendents of state prisons and wardens of penitentaries in the South for the eighteen-month period ending July 1, 1931, demonstrate conclusively that Negroes brought before the courts are not dealt with leniently.

Nor are the majority of those mobbed to death accused of rape. Only one sixth of those lynched between 1889 and 1929 charged with crimes against women. The accusations of rape and attempted rape combined accounted for less than one-fourth of the lynchings, and subsequent investigations often proved the victims innocent. Of the 3.693 mob victims between 1889 and 1929, 1,394, or 37.7 were accused of murder. 214, or 5.8 per cent were accused of felonious assaults, 614 or 16.7 of rape, 247 or 6.7 of attempted rape, 264, or 7.1 per cent of theft, 66, or 1.8 per cent of insult to white persons, and 894, or 24.2 per cent accused of other offenses.

Many Negroes accused of rape or attempted rape, and saved from mobs by courageous peace officers or other means have been acquitted by the courts. In some cases girls and women who had posed as victims acknowledged that they had made charges to cover their own derelictions, to divert suspicion from some white man, to reconcile their parents, to attract attention, or "just to have a little excitement." Though it is impossible to determine the extent to which Negroes are accused unjustly of crimes, the use of burnt cork by whites is not uncommon.

"Many white people, particularly in the open country—assume that Negroes are prone to crimes against women and that unless a Negro is lynched now and then the women in the solitary farmsteads are in danger," the commission states in its report. "Investigations show that in many cases where no crime was involved lynchings for other offenses were nevertheless justified on the same assumption. A common contention of lynchers and their apologists is that to bring the accused into court is to do him unwarranted honor."

"Do you think I am going to risk my life protecting a 'nigger'?" This remark, according to the commission, typifies a common attitude of peace officers in communities where lynchings occurred in 1930. In most instances the sheriff and other peace officers merely stood by while the mob did its work. In practically every community where lynchings occurred in 1930 there ixisted a gulf between the leading whites and the humbler whites, the latter looking with resentment upon the attitudes of the more prosperous citizens toward "their Negroes."

A major factor of the Negro's inability to get legal protection is his political impotence.

Although the National Guard in many instances rendered admirable service, it has been of questionable value in at least three cases since 1920.

Commenting on what the courts have done about 1930 lynchings, the commission relates those who take the law in their own hands usually go unmolested by local courts; that in six of the twenty-one lynchings grand jury indictments were returned against 49. Only four have been convicted. An exception to the rule relative to the indifference of state officials was that of Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama, who brought proceedings against officers of Sumter County, who tendered their resignations.

Attitude of Ministers Differ

Discussing the attitude of the large and small churches in the South on lynching, the commission cites: "In practically every community, there was a marked difference between the attitude of the ministers of the large churhces and that of those serving the smaller ones. This difference is an aspect of the gulf which exists between the cultural and economic status of the leadership of these two types of churches. This was clearly set forth in Sherman, Tex. There the pastor emeritus and pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, along with the pastor of the Disciples Church, stood out uncompromisingly in condemnation of mob rule. The pastors of the largest Methodist and Baptist congregations expressed disgust over what had happened. But nearly all the ministers of the small outlying churches of these denominations expressed sympathy with the mob.

Maintaining that there is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status and the lynching danger, the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching makes the optimistic observation that: "We expect lynching ultimately to be eradicated by the growth of a healthy opinion that will longer tolerate them. It is a matter of major importance to stimualte this growth. In the meantime, however, certain steps offer hope of immediate amelioration, as well as steady progress toward the eventual goal."

Among the practical measures suggested for preventing and dispersing mobs are: Additional legislation, securer jails to keep out mobs and adequate equipment to repel them, machine guns and gas bombs; the consolidation of small, poor counties into larger and wealthier units; that sheriffs and other peace officers cease fraternizing and temporizing with mob leaders; that officers of rural communities form working agreements to assist each other in times of crisis.

"It need not be urged that laws at last are of little avail unless supported by public opinion" says the commission. "The various expediments suggested may help to prevent lynching, but they will contribute to the final end of lynching only as they help build a public opinion that will outlaw it. The growth of such a public opinion is a matter of education, working through many agencies.

"In this process the churches perhaps have major responsibility as arbiters of moral standard and the conservators of human values. Public schools and colleges should play an important part through definite courses in race relations and by the inclusion of courses in history, literature, sociology, civics and other subjects. Thus the rising generation may be afforded the basis for intelligent, fair-minded racial attitudes which it will hardly secure in any other way.

"The press, a third great educational agency, has already demonstrated its value in the anti-lynching campaign. Our editorial leadership, it is confidently expected, will continue to render this service till the goal is reached.

"Lynching," the commission concludes, "can and will be eliminated in proportion as all elements of the population are provided opportunities for development and are accorded fundamental human rights. Whether in the field of religion, education, economics, jurisprudence, or politics, anything which looks toward this end as a factor in reducing mob violence. For funadmentally, lynching is an expression of a basic lack of respect for both human beings and for organized society."

N. MEXICO SHOWS MARYLAND HOW TO HANDLE CRIMINALS

12-25-31

Washington

The New Mexico Tribune Specially Mentions the Maryland Lynching

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico.—(ANP)—As a result of the conviction here recently of Thomas Johnson tried and convicted of the murder of a white girl and sentenced to die February 12, two newspapers have pointed to the manner in which local officials handled the case as being exemplary for the state of Maryland where Matthew Williams was dragged from a hospital bed and lynched.

The editor of the New Mexico State Tribune wrote in part:

"We commend the case of Johnson to the attention of other localities in the United States, particularly to officials and citizens of the great free state of Maryland . . . ."

"Sheriff Baca took no chances. He placed his prisoner in the New Mexico state pentitentiary. District Attorney Kenney and Santa Fe local officers went about the business of establishing guilt as if they believed Johnson innocent. The district attorney built up a careful case. Investigations were painstaking in the effort to guard against mistake. An able attorney was appointed to defend the prisoner. He made a sincere fight for his client. The jury decided.

"We are deeply impressed with the smooth and effective way in which Santa Fe-co authorities operated in the midst of a trying situation. The reason is that a law-abiding community had confidence that justice would be done."

And in a similar strain wrote the editor of the Albuquerque Journal:

"An attorney appointed by the court ably defended the Negro and the defendant received the due protection and justice to which he was entitled until a final determination of his guilt or innocence.

"It is to the credit of the citizens of Santa Fe that they've acted so admirably under the strain of the fiendish crime. The little murmur of mob violence was met by more sober judgment and quick and complete justice has been fixed in the case.

"How much better is it that orderly process of law prevailed than to have had a reputation similar to some other states for mob violence. In Maryland, for instance, there was a lynching during the time of the trial in Santa Fe for less brutal crime than that committed in this state."

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31 LYNCHINGS IN MARYLAND SINCE THE YEAR 1882

Afro-American

12-12-31

Baltimore, Md.

28 of the Victims were Colored, and Only 3 White.

SALISBURY MOB OF 1898 RECALLED

Whites then Battered Down Jail Door.

Since 1882, Maryland has had 31 lynchings, according to Tuskegee Institute Records. Of the victims, 28 were colored and 3 were white.

Records prior to 1882 are not avilable, but it is known that Maryland slaves, like those in other states, were frequently lynched for the murder of overseers or owners.

The Negro Year Book figures for the U.S. for the decade from 1850 to 1860 alone show 46 slaves put to death for killing overseers or owners of them, 26 were lynched.

SALISBURY (Lynchtown), Md.—A few of the older citizens of this mob-ridden city recalled Sunday the last lynching in Salisbury when Garfield King, popular church worker, was taken from the jail and hanged back of the court house on May 24, 1898.

One of the town's oldest citizens recounted the happening that led up to the orgy. King, who was well known throughout Wicomico County as a worker in the church, lived at Allentown, several miles from Salisbury near Princess Anne.

On May 23, he went into a store which was owned and operated by Simon Kenny, white. As he entered the store, King accidentally stepped on the foot of Kenny, who was sitting with his feet across the doorway.

The men engaged in a quarel, during which Kenny struck King in the face. King went to his home and obtained his revolver. When he returned, he fired several shots at Kenny, all of which entered his body. Kenny died a few hours later.

King was taken to Salisbury jail. The following day the citizens of Princess Anne, Cambridge, and Salisbury collected in Salisbury and attacked the jail. They battered down the jail door and seized King. He was hanged a few hundred feet away from where Matthew Williams was hanged here on December 4.

It has been 33 years, 6 months and 10 days from that time until Salisbury witnessed its last murder by mob in the recent killing of the youthful Williams.

Western Editors Score Lynching

Point to New Mexico Case as Example for Mobs in Maryland

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, Dec. 14 (ANP).—As a result of the conviction here recently of Thomas Johnson, tried and convicted of the murder of a white girl and sentenced to die February 12, two newspapers have pointed to the manner in which local officials handled the case as being exemplary for the State of Maryland, where Matthew Williams was dragged from a hospital bed and lynched.

The editor of the New Mexico State Tribune wrote in part:

"We commend the case of Johnson to the attention of other localities in the United States particularly to officials and citizens of the great free state of Maryland . . ."

"Sheriff Baca took no chances. He placed his prisoner in the New Mexico State Penitentiary. District Attorney Kenney and Santa Fe local officers went about the business of establishing guilt as if they believed Johnson innocent. The district attorney built up a careful case. Investigations were painstaking in the effort to guard against mistake. An able attorney was appointed to defend the prisoner. He made a sincere fight for his client. The jury decided.

"We are deeply impressed with the smooth and effective way in which Santa Fe authorities operated in the midst of a trying situation. The reason is that a law-abiding community had confidence that justice would be done."

And in a similar strain wrote the editor of the Albuquerque Journal:

"An attorney appointed by the court ably defended the Negro and the defendant received the due protection and justice to which he was entitled until a final determination of his guilt or innocence.

"It is to the credit of the citizens of Santa Fe that they have acted so admirably under the strain of the fiendish crime. The little murmur of mob violence was met by more sober judgment and quick and complete justice has been fixed in the case.

"How much better it is that orderly process of law prevailed than to have had a reputation similar to some other states for mob violence. In Maryland, for instance, there was a lynching during the time of the trial in Santa Fe, for a less brutal crime than that committed in this state."

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern.

3377

MARION LYNCHING WAS DISGRACE TO THE GOOD NAME OF INDIANA

Recorder 8-29-31 Recorder

ABE SMITH AND THOMAS SHIPP TAKEN FROM JAIL BY INFURIATED MOB AFTER BATTERING DOWN JAIL DOOR, DRAGGED THROUGH STREETS AND LYNCHED ON GRANT COUNTY COURT HOUSE LAWN—NO PUNISHMENT METED OUT.

By Staff Correspondent

Marion, Ind., Aug. 28.—Residents of this city are discussing with much refreshed concern the cowardly murder enacted here on the night of August 7 of last year, when a mob, composed of several hundred one hundred per centers participated in the lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abe Smith by stringing the boys up to a tree on the Grant County court house lawn, and trampled the good name of Indiana into the mire of disgrace.

Smith and Shipp were forcibly taken from their cells in the Grant county jail where they were being held on charges of shooting and killing Claude Deeter, white, of Fairmont, and attacking Mary Ball, Deeter's alleged girl companion. The latter charge against the two youths was refuted by Deeter in a death-bed statement.

Batters Door Down

Battering down the doors, the infuriated mob, led by a loud mouthed Kentuckian by birth and breeding entered the jail and returned with what remained of the limping victims in less than ten minutes, after clubing Smith and Shipp nearly to death.

Dragging the near-lifeless bodies of the boys through the streets like two half-dead dogs, the lynchers came to a halt on the court house lawn, where Smith and Shipp were strung up to limbs of a tree to the accompaniment of the approval of shrieking men and women and children.

It is being recalled here how the bodies of the youthful victims dangled all night from the ends of the rope, while members of the mob hurled unprintable epithets at the murdered boys and insults at the race with which Smith and Shipp were identified.

Barbarous Outburst

Then came the act of cutting down the bodies next morning. This was the occasion for a rebirth of barbarous outburst of the feeling of hate that prevailed during the lynching orgy the night before.

Men and women on the latter occasion were seen to indulge in the barbarous pastime of gauging the heels of their big feet into the faces of the dead men. Shipp, in a desperate but losing fight with his captors had bitten one of them. This was, remembered by the particular lyncher for when it came his turn to plant his heel in Shipp's dead face he remarked "you bit me, didn't you, you damned Nigger."

Threatened To Burn Bodies

Following the lynching several car loads of young hoodlums drove by the homes of the survivors of the dead boys and yelled to the sorrowing parents "we have lynched your sons, now cry your eyes out."

This was followed by threats by the mob to burn the bodies of the lynched boys. The threats were not carried out however.

Failure of the Grant county sheriff to lift hand, in defense of his doomed prisoners was bitterly condemned throughout the nation. The sheriff was subsequently removed from office as a result of the people's indignation.

Two Separate Funerals

August 11, Marion was the scene of the two separate funerals conducted for Shipp and Smith. At the homes of the murdered youths, one on the edge of Marion and the other close to the very heart of the city grief stricken mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers bemoaned the sad fate of their loved ones.

While the bodies were being consigned to their last resting place, Indiana guardsmen paced back and forth before these humble homes to protect them from all repeated threats of leaders of the notorious mob.

Marion citizens remember how, with head bowed, their youthful mayor visited the homes of the survivors and attempted to comfort them.

Funeral services for Shipp and Smith were held shortly after their guarded bodies were returned to Marion from Muncie, where they were sent following threats of the mob to burn them.

Anti-Lynch Law Effected

Since the memorable Grant county court house lawn lynching, an ammendment to the State anti-lynching law was effected to prevent a recurrence on Indiana soil of any such crimes.

The law, which is well supplied with necessary teeth, is of such a nature that county sheriffs will think twice in the future before they allow prisoners to be taken from right under their very noses and lynched.

Of course, voters and law-abiding citizens of Indiana are not unmindful of the fact that not one of their lynchers was brought to justice for killing Shipp and Smith. That is a circumstance that will never be forgotten. "It is a weapon" many citizens say, which will be used against enemies of fair play when the proper times comes.

Editorial, Written On Fifth Anniversary Of Crime, Reveals Facts

Courier

10-24-31

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Columbia, S. C., Graphically Recalls to Memory Incidents And Highlights of Brutal Affair—Doesn't Try To Distort Facts.

"Screaming impotently into the night, the three—one of them innocent by a verdict of a South Caroline court—were bundled into waiting automobiles and then, just outside of the city limits in a little patch of woods, they were shot to death.——"

And thus does The Columbia Record of Columbia, S. C., a fearless organ of the south, and of more significance, a white daily newspaper, recall to memory the damnable lynchings of three Negroes five years ago in Aiken, S. C., in an editorial entitled "An Anniversary."

The editorial goes into a detailed and graphic account of the incidents relative to the case, distorting nothing as it "hews close to the line, letting the chips fall where they may."

It tells how one of the men, first convicted, had been later adjudged innocent following the Supreme Court's delineation of the law. It tells of how the crime which the lynching is supposed to have avenged, was many months old. It tells how a Negro mother was killed in the raid when the sheriff died, and how the lynched woman's unborn child died.

It's not a nice editorial. It's stripped bare. But, it shows the changing policy of some sections of the south, and we herewith publish the entire editorial, thanking at the same time George A. Buchanan, Jr., the white editor, who has followed in the footsteps of other white newspapermen in placing duty above color. The editorial follows:

AN ANNIVERSARY

(From The Columbia S. C. Record)

In Aiken three negroes, one of them a woman, were being tried a second time for the murder of Aiken's sheriff. Their first trial had ended in verdicts of guilty—the electric chair for the two boys, Demon and Clarence Lowman, the mercy of a life sentence for the woman, Bertha. But the supreme court of South Carolina reversed this first verdict, making it clear that only one of the three defendants, the person who actually fired the shot, could be held guilty of murder; the others were guilty only of something else. And so Special Judge Samuel T. Lanham, following the supreme court's clear delineation of the law, directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty for Demon Lowman, one of the three.

Didn't Doubt Verdict

The first trial, held shortly after the murder, had been orderly; Aiken, it appeared, was prepared to let the law take its course. There was not even the hint of mob violence. Sheriff Henry H. Howard had been a fine officer and a popular citizen; he had believed himself in the law's enforcement. No one had any doubt of what that first verdict would be.

"An' they tried 'em," an Aiken citizen told the story to an inquiring New York reporter, "an' convicted 'em an' the two boys was sentenced to be electrocuted and the woman to life in prison an' everybody says everything's chicken."

Five Years Ago Today

But in that second trial one had already been acquitted; the woman might also have escaped with a lesser penalty. So five years ago today a crowd of "persons unknown" to a coroner's jury knocked at the door of Aiken's modern jail and demanded the surrender of the three Negroes. Rupert Taylor, the jailor, refused the demand and telephoned, he said, for the sheriff, Nollie Robinson, who once before had turned back a mob seeking to lynch the three prisoners the day of Sheriff Howard's death. As he unlocked the door of the jail to admit the sheriff, aylor said, the mob rushed in, overpowering the officers.

Screaming impotently into the night the three—one of them innocent by a verdict of a South Carolina court—were bundled into waiting automobiles and then just outside of the city limits in a little patch of woods they were shot to death. The place is there still on the Columbia-Aiken highway and if you know where it is you can recognize it from your passing automobile.

Most Inexcusable

Of the lynchings that have been South Carolina's share as gang killings have been New York's and mine riots Tennessee's and Colorado's, this was the most inexcusable. It was not done in sudden heat and passion. The crime which it avenged—the killing of the sheriff in a raid on the Lowman home near Monetta in which Annie Lowman lost her life and Bertha Lowman's unborn child died—was many months past. The second trial was actually in progress and one of the three, the mob knew, was not guilty under South Carolina law, made and interpreted by white South Carolinians.

That was five years ago. Two governors and an attorney general sought to discover and arrest the members of the mob. Two grand juries investigated the slaying—after a fashion. But to no avail. Never has there been arrest made or an indictment brought. Officially the slaying remains the work of "persons unknown."

And Aiken in these five years has done nothing about it though it was and is particularly Aiken's shame. Aiken, which alone could have done something about it, has wanted to forget, but in Aiken are some who know and these can not forget.

GAS STATION IN SALISBURY WON'T SELL STRANGERS

Afro-Amer

Operator Refuses Stranded Auto Gas; Fires at Occupants.

12-26-31

NO CHANGE YET

Baltimore, Md

Lee Case Still Before Appeals Court.

Reports are current here that a local insurance agent in the Salisbury lynching area was forcibly driven from the section along with another stranded autoist by a filling station operator who used his shot gun.

A local insurance agent, it is said, also stated that State police officials were stopping motorists and searching them for firearms. No whites were being searched, it was said.

No Such Order

When called to his attention, Commissioner E. Austin Baughman told the AFRO-AMERICAN that no such order had been issued from his office.

The report is that the insurance agent found a stranded autoist on the highway near Salisbury and used his car to push the stranded auto to the nearest filling station.

The white proprietor not only refused to sell gas to the man whose tank was dry, but using vile language, ordered the men to leave his place.

afro-American

The good Samaritan then pushed the stranded car out on the highway and in the direction of the next filling station, but not before the white station owner seized his shotgun and fired over their heads to make them hurry.

12-26-31

On the assumption that the Maryland Court of Appeals will grant Yuel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, a change of venue from the courts of Dorchester County, where he is scheduled to be tried, defense counsel are preparing briefs for a hearing at Snow Hill.

Baltimore, Md

The plans that are under way now will be the filing of a brief presented to the lower court at Worcester County, the scene of the murder. It includes reasons why the trial should be held on the Western shores of Maryland. Prior to their decision to hold the trial on the Eastern Shore, Mr. Ades filed a petition for a change of venue, which was denied. The denial followed the presentation of a petition signed by 2,500 white farmers of the Eastern Shore asking that the trial of Lee, who is accused of killing a farmer and his family of four, be held in that judicial district.

Should the court of appeals grant the change of venue it will be necessary for the defense counsel to present the decision of the court of appeals and the briefs to the court at Worchester County for a change of venue. When Attorney Ades presented his petition for a change of venue at Snow Hill a month ago, he and several companions were attacked and beaten by a mob.

A.M.E. PREACHERS FLAY LYNCHING IN RESOLUTIONS

12-19-31

"We Preach too Much Humility," the Rev. Mr. Beard

Tells Ministers' Meeting Bishop Has Faith in Governor Ritchie.

Afro-Amer

Resolutions, deploring the lynching at Salisbury, and calling upon the Governor to bring the criminals to justice and to see that they are punished after a fair and impartial trial, were presented to the A.M.E. Preachers' Meeting at Bethel Church, Monday morning.

Afro-American

In the discussion that followed the presentation of the motion for adoption of the resolutions, there was a lively discussion involving the position that the church and the ministers ought to take in the matter.

The Rev. J. E. Lee made a plea for adding to the resolutions, compliments to the Governor. Upon making this suggestion he was booed by the members of the meeting. Mr. George Biddle, former school principal, and a member of the meeting roundly denounced the suggestion discrediting the Governor with any good efforts in the case.

"There is nothing that we can say in commendation of the Governor's attitude," he said.

Baltimore

The Rev. Beard Denounces Humility

The Rev. E. H. Beard of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, in a broadside, indicting the ministry and the church for apathy, said:

12-19-31

"I do not approve of commending the Governor for anything. We should commend the editors of the Post and the Sun for the stand they have taken in this matter."

Commenting on the position of ministers in the matter, the Rev. Mr. Beard denounced the ministry for preaching too much humility.

"I believe that Christianity does not teach us to be cowards," he said. "We are too humble in our actions. I believe that the white people everywhere, and especially on the Eastern Shore, would respect us more if we had a dozen men who would not be afraid to take a stand in the face of a mob. We are too humble, and we preach too much humility."

AFRO Commended

The Rev. John T. Colbert of Grace Presbyterian Church commended the AFRO-AMERICAN for the independence of its stand and asked that the compliments of the body be sent to the editor, Carl Murphy, as well as the editors of the Sun and the Post.

The resolutions were as follows:

WHEREAS, It is the purpose of the colored people of the State of Maryland to be law-abiding, condoning no wrong-doing or crime on anyone and,

WHEREAS, The laws of the State and nation are competent to try at the bar of justice all persons who fail to be law-abiding and who commit crimes of any kind, and,

WHEREAS, We do not look with favor or approval on any crimes committed by colored people in Salisbury, or Berlin, Maryland, or anywhere else; and,

WHEREAS, Only a few days ago, in Salisbury, Maryland, a rabble mob of Maryland citizens forgot the law, order, the American Constitution, the Stars and Stripes, the right of a fair and impartial trial in a proper court of justice, and,

WHEREAS, This same mob forgot the teachings of Christ and became brutal savage, and did take and burn a human being in defiance of all law and morals and religion: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this A.M.E. Baltimore Preachers' Meeting, by these resolutions, condemn mob violence as uncivilized, brutal, savage, revengeful, cowardly, and distasteful to all human decency. And be it further

RESOLVED, That we condemn the burning and lynching of one Matthew Williams in Salisbury, Maryland, and hereby call upon Governor Albert C. Ritchie and the prosecuting attorney in Salisbury to bring to proper justice every coward and savage of the mob before the bar of justice and that each be given a fair and impartial trial.

Believes in Governor

In a statement concerning the lynching in Salisbury, Bishop William H. Heard, of the Baltimore area, told an AFRO reporter:

"Lynching ought not to be, under any conditions. There can be no instance where it can be justified.

"I believe that the Governor, through the district attorney, will punish the parties concerned, and I do not believe that the parties concerned are hard to find.

"I believe they are known to all who are concerned. All that is needed is to stand by the district attorney and the Governor, and bring them to justice.

"If this lynching is tolerated, it will occur in any city of this country, but if the guilty ones are punished, there will be no second occurrence."

Bishop Names Delegates

The bishop handed out certificates for the members chosen to attend the General Conference.

Indicating that he would use his best judgment in the matter of divisions of the Baltimore districts in the Baltimore diocese, the bishop made it clear that he would use every effort to promote the interests of five districts if such a number proved necessary, but, further, if good sense and economy showed the feasibility of having four districts, he would bend every effort to promote the interests of four districts.

He further pointed out the lack of spirit in the Baltimore ministry in the holding of revival services and bringing new members into the church. "If I could not show any new members in my diocese after a year of work in the church here, I would feel that I ought to get out of the ministry, and seek some other work," he said.

Those who signed the resolutions were:

The Rev. J. W. Norris, presiding elder; the Rev. F. Johns, Gaines Memorial A.M.E.; the Rev. O. J. Hayman, Elkridge; the Rev. R. S. Stansbury, Havre de Grace; the Rev. Joseph Gwynn, Shiloh A.M.E.; the Rev. W. M. Ivy, Weslyan M.E.; William Sewell, layman; W. H. Baker, local elder; the Rev. J. R. Nelson, presiding elder; Thaddeus Copeland, layman; the Rev. E. H. Beard, Ebenezer A.M.E.; the Rev. Robert E. Ford, Falls Road;

The Rev. H. E. Waldon, Payne Memorial A.M.E.; the Rev. E. T. Addison, Catonsville; the Rev. A. C. Clarke, Bethel A.M.E.; W. J. Snowden, local elder; the Rev. C. H. Fountain, Waters A.M.E.; the Rev. G. A. Hawkins, Handy Memorial A.M.E.; the Rev. John T. Colbert, Grace Presbyterian; the Rev. D. E. Rice, St. John A.M.E.; the Rev. H. D. Camper, Towson; the Rev. J. E. Lee, Long Green; the Rev. E. N. Thomas, Ellicott City; the Rev. Charles E. Stewart, Trinity A.M.E.

Lynchings-1931 & Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern.

3378

MARYVILLE'S SHAME.

Recorder

2-7-31

Indianapolis, Indiana

The taking of the law in their own hands, the torturing, burning at stake, and lynching of human beings who are, nine times out of ten, not guilty of the crime for which their lives are unlawfully and brutally taken by the hoodlum element of such states as Georgia and Mississippi and others, even including Kentucky, has perhaps caused the good citizens of these respective states to hang their heads in shame, but seldom has anything equalled that which happened in Missouri recently in the little town of Maryville.

In Maryville a young school teacher, white, was attacked and beaten with a club in the school house over which she presided. It was a horrid crime, of a kind which merits the application of the extreme penalty to the guilty culprit through the due process of the law.

But the law was not allowed to take its course. A colored man, said o have confessed under third degree punishment, and whose guilt is very much in doubt, was taken by a mob who encountered no resistance from the sheriff, abused and tortured, carried to the school house where the girl was murdered, and chained to the roof which was saturated with gasoline and fired. The helpless victim went up in the flames which enveloped him and burned the little school building down to the ground, while men, women and children looked on with satisfaction.

According to reports, no lynching program has been so well organized before the hour of execution and carried out with such precision without a hitch. The mob leaders had arranged to care for the heavy traffic by engaging a police officer to direct autos to and from the party. The sheriff and his deputies offered no protection to the victim; the Governor paid little attenion to the committee of colored citizens who sent him a telegram warning of the contemplated lynching; the news that the colored man had been lynched was cheered in certain sections of the House of Representatives in session at Jefferson City.

Yes, Maryville, a town in the "show me" state, shows her sister communities how to perform the most dastardly, inhuman and cowardly form of mob violence; Missouri, in the United States, the land of the free and home of the brave, sets a mark in hoodlumism and savagery for her sister states to shoot at.

The most loyal American citizens are discriminated against, hated, abused, tortured, shot up, burned and lynched with impunity while the President of the nation sits supinely and complacently with not a word of protest or disapproval. He preaches the strict enforcement of the prohibition laws while Maryville burns up a citizen and a school and makes her shame America's.

—LOUISVILLE LEADER

Other Papers Say

Gary American

PROBLEM IN SCORING

2-7-31

(Macon, Ga. News)

Every year the department of research and records at the Tuskegee institute and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People compile statistics on lynching. The two official scorers of this great American outdoor sport do not always agree in their data. For instance, last year, the Tuskegee statistician did not include the killing of a prisoner in the Darien jail in its list of lynchings. The N. A. A. C. P. box score included this incident in its lynching column. There was a fine point involved. The victim was shot to death while in a celll and nobody (officially) knows who shot him. Tuskegee called it a murder; the N. A. A. C. P. called it a lynching.

Now these tabulators of mob violence confront another problem.

Over in Shreveport a Negro killed two policemen and was himself wounded. He was carried to a charity hosital and a mob of 1,500 people went after him. While the avengers were in the corridor of the hospital, on the way to the Negro's bedside, he died. The mayor of the city, the sheriff and the national guard had failed to check the advance of the mob and it had the situation well in hand. To all intents and purposes, he was in the custody of the self-appointed executioners.

With these facts in hand, how are the scorers going to register this death? Was it or was it not a lynching?

To Shreveport and the state of Louisiana, the decision is important. On it may depend the cleanliness of the municipal and commonwealth escutcheons for 1931.

Will the scorers give the mob credit for a put-out or merely an assist?

It begins to look as if this sport of lynching needs a Judge Landis to clarify its activities and redefine its rules.

Mississippi White Women Join South's Move to End Lynching

Gary American

2-7-31

JACKSON, Miss. — Branding lynching as "a crime which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianity, and undermines our government," and pledging themselves to do all in their power to eradicate it, groups of prominent Mississippi women last week joined the Southwide movement recently inaugurated by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation to enlist the women of the South in a fresh offensive against mob violence.

Gary American

In the two Mississippi meetings, held on successive days at Clarksdale and Jackson, more than fifty outstanding women participated in person or by proxy, and the expectation was expressed that not less than 2,000 Mississippi women would be enlisted in the movement before the end of the year.

Among the lines of effort to be carried on by the women in their campaign will be those of "creating public opinion, educating the youth in law and order, upholding officers in the efforts to enforce the law, and calling upon the press, the pulpit and school, and upon every patriotic citizen to join in the campaign." The action of these women was the occasion of wide editorial comment and endorsement throughout the state.

The Southwide movement against lynching, with which Mississippi women have allied themselves, was inaugurated at a meeting of twenty representative women in Atlanta on November 1. Called together by the Inter-racial Commission to consider the distressing lynching record of 1930, these women determined upon a fresh offensive against this crime. The plan formulated by this group included the organization of a strong women's committee in each of the Southern states to lead in a program of education and action along all possible lines for the eradication of mob violence.

In pursuance of that plan state groups have already been organized in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi, and similar committees are to be set up in the other states as quickly as possible. The work of organization is headed by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, the Commission's Director of Women's Activities, with headquarters in Atlanta.

WHITE WOMEN DECLARE LYNCHING BRUTALIZES THE WHITE PEOPLE AND UNDERMINES THE GOVERNMENT

Guardian

2-7-31

Boston Mass.

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 3, 1931—Branding lynching as "a crime which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianity, and undermines our government;" and pledging themselves to do all in their power to eradicate it, two groups of prominent Mississippi women joined the Southwid[illegible] recently inaugurated by [illegible] sion on Interracial Co-opera[illegible] list the women of the South [illegible] offensive against mob violenc[illegible]

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ROBERTS OFFERS RESOLUTION OF LYNCHING EDITORI'L

Tribune

2-13-31

Washington, D.C.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—(ANP)—Official cognizance was taken this week in the state senate of an editorial on lynching which appeared in the Daily Illini, a student publication at the University of Illinois, after the recent lynching at Marysville, Mo., when Senator Adelbert H. Roberts introduced a resolution bearing on the matter.

The editorial in the student publication has been generally taken as an endorsement of lynching and the lynching instinct.

Senator Roberts' resolution would have the senate presiding officer, Liet. Gov. Fred E. Sterling, "request and direct our senior senator, Henry M. Dunlap, to ascertain how such a dangerous article was permitted to be published and whether it represented the true seniment of the University of Illinois."

White Ministers Condemn Lynching At Maryville, Mo.

Argus

Statement Says That the Lynching-Burning Was a Crime Against Society and Against God.

2-13-31

The lynching-burning of Raymond Gunn recently at Maryville, Missouri by a mob has been the subject of much discussion by people of many walks of life. Significant, however is the statement issued this week by white ministers of the city representing eleven denominations in which lynching is strongly condemned and the support and cooperation of the churches is pledged to help stamp out mob violence.

St. Louis Mo.

The Statement

"We, the undersigned, teachers of religion, hereby express our sense of horror and outrage over the lynching which took place in Maryville, Mo. a short while ago. We deplore the fact that citizens of that community cast aside the moral restraint of civilization to participate in an action of unspeakable brutality.

"We desire to go on record that lynchings are, under no circumstances, justifiable. We urge our colleagues in the ministry and other religious and fair-minded men in our state to join us in the creation of a public opinion that will condemn the usurpation of the law by a mob as a crime against society and against God. We believe that every individual, no matter how clear his guilt or how humble his station, has a right to his day in court and to defend himself before his peers.

"We earnestly hope that the investigation ordered by the Governor of our state will be vigorously prosecuted and that those officers of the law through whose neglect of duty the lynching occurred, will be called to account.

"We, representing many religious denominations, are united in the hope that lynchings will not be tolerated by the citizens of our country and that all of our moral and spiritual resources will be marshaled to attain this end."

The statement is signed by Rev. George A. Campbell, pastor of the Union Avenue Christian Church; Rev. James E. Crowther, president of the Church Federation; Rev. George R. Dodson, pastor of the Church of the Unity; Rev. Ivan Lee Holt, pastor of St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church; Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman of Temple Israel; Rev. M. Ashby Jones, pastor of the Second Baptist Church; Rev. John J. MacIvor, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church; Rev. H. Richard Niebuhr, professor at Eden Theological Seminary; Rev. William Scarlett, dean of Christ Church Cathedral; Rev. John Spencer, pastor of St. Roch's Church; Rev. Jay T. Stocking, pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, and Rev. Russell J. Wilbur, pastor of Notre Dame d'Lourdes Church.

AGITATION FOR A CURB ON LYNCHING EVIL IS SPREADING

Many States Taking Action to Check Crime. Southern Sections Are Mostly Involved.

INTER-RACIAL BODY IS FIGHTING AGAINST EVIL

Conducts an Intensive Investigation of Mob Slayings and Recommends Improvements.

Argus

Agitation for curbing of the lynching evil, which last year claimed a total of lives double that of this year previous, is spreading in many states. Most outstanding in this movement is the Commission on inter-racial Co-operation, which is making an extensive study of the causes of the crime and has already submitted three suggestions for curbing it. The legislatures of a number of states have had anti-lynching bills introduced.

1-30-31

ATLANTA, Ga., January 28—The Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation has begun an intensive study of lynching and the methods for curbing the crime. The body has made the following survey:

Laxity Of Law Seen

From the facts gathered so far, H. B. Eleazer, director of public relations for the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation, pointed out to the correspondent that three recommendations would certainly be made. They are:

St. Louis Mo.

1. That the State government be given primary right in making investigations of mob action, with the additional right to set the venue for trial of mob leaders in jurisdictions outside the county where the lynching occurred.

2. Provision for a State constabulary, under orders of the Governor, to assist local authorities in preventing lynchings.

3. Immediate and automatic suspension of any Sheriff and other peace officer from whom a prisoner has been taken and lynched pending an investigation to determine if such officers have been lax in their duty to protect their prisoners.

That mob murder took a sudden and unexpected upturn during 1930 is seen by the figures for the three years previous: In 1927 there were 16 victims of lynchings, in 1928 there were 11 and in 1929 only 10.

Whatever explanation may be offered to shed light on the increase of mob violence, the commission here is working to discover defects in the protection of prisoners accused of crimes for which they might be lynched and to strengthen the arm of the law in reducing lynchings to a minimum.

States Take A Hand

Virginia already has such a law as the first recommendation calls for. There, the State officials take the lead in investigating and prosecuting mob leaders. And Virginia has not had a lynching since 1926, and only three since 1923.

Two Southern states have joined a number of Northern states in setting up a state constabulary—Alabama and Tennessee, Texas, with its State rangers, might also be included in the list, but the rangers were organized under different conditions than the constabularies of Alabama and Tennessee.

In no state as yet is there provision for suspension of peace officials pending investigations of their conduct before mobs.

Most of the lynchings in 1930, officers of the commission point out, show that prompt action on the part of the State constabulary, guarding the prisoner and the jail, patroling the streets and grounds about the jail and dispersing idle groups, would have prevented the lynching.

It is expected that the reports of the investigators will include severe condemnation of some of the peace officers from whom prisoners were taken and put to death. Of the 21 persons lynched (all of whom were Negroes except one, John Hodaz, a white man of Tampa, Fla.), all but five were taken from the hands of the law, or were killed within the jails that confined them.

Lynchers Always Go Free

In the list of 1930 lynchings no person has been convicted of participation in the mob murder, although in nearly every instance where the victim has been taken from the jail or from the hands of peace officers the leaders of the mob have been reported known to officers

A grand jury, investigating the Thomasville lynching, reported as follows:

"After the examination of many witnesses, many of whom were prominent men of Thomas County, it was necessary to close this investigation without an indictment, for lack of evidence."

"The record of 1930 shows that the law must be strengthened," Eleazer said. "It must be made effective in preventing lynchings and in punishing the leaders.

"A legislative program looking to this end will be vigorously pushed by our organization and others interested in inter-racial matters during this year."

MURDEROUS MOBS DENOUNCED BY KENTUCKY WOMEN

Form Association for Prevention of Lynching and Join South-wide Anti Lynching League-- Eleven States Represented.

Negro Star

3-6-31

LOUISVILLE, KY., Feb 27:—Sixty seven prominent Kentucky women, gathered here yesterday on call of the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation, constituted themselves the Kentucky Association of Women for the Prevention of lynching, issued a vigorous statement in condemnation of mob violence, and affiliated themselves with the Southwide anti-lynching association of Southern women.

Wichita Kansas

Deploring and condemning mob violence as "an indictment of our civilization and a greater menace than any other form of crime in the United States," the group congratulated Kentucky on its lynchless record in 1930 and called upon officers to protect their prisoners and upon courts to bring the participants to justice in cases of mob violence. A pledge was taken to do everything possible to eradicate such crimes, by building up through all available agencies and organizations a public opinion that will no longer tolerate them.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching of which the Kentucky group becomes a part, was organized in Atlanta on November 1 and already has strong branches in 11 Southern States, with an aggregate membership of several hundred representative and influential women Each state association as organized has formulated and given to the public a statement simular to that of the Kentucky group and has pledged itself to a simular program of education. Plans have been made also for definite action in cases where lynchings are threatened or take place, and in states in which special preventive legislation is found to be needed.

The women of Virginia and Florida remain to be organized, but plans are well advanced for their early enlistment in this movement, which promises to wield no small influence throughout the South in the molding of public opinion and policies with relation to mob violence.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

White Press, (Northern.)

3379

3379

"Race Riots"

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.
1-24-31

A Story Based on True Incidents, of Theft, Rape and Murder Against Negro Masses

By **IRVING S. KREITZBERG.**

SAM was furious. He was boiling. Pent-in hatred, so long subdued, now burst out in a passionate flame of indignation. He was no longer the docile, knee-bending, Uncle Tom. He was Sam Cullen, a Negro and a worker—and he was fighting mad.

"I've worked for the Gregory's all this month," he bitterly told his family and the Robertsons and Logans who lived in adjoining shacks. "Worked eleven hours every day. Some days it was so hard I just flopped into bed the minute I came home, my bones ached so. Two days ago they told me they didn't want me any more. I asked for my pay and Mrs. Gregory told me to come back the next day so's Mr. Gregory could pay me off. Went back yesterday and Mr. Gregory told me that I'd taken goods for it; most likely over what I'd earned. I told him I want my pay. I kept on saying I want my pay. I didn't take more than two dollars worth of goods. He got plumb mad and yelled:

" 'You god damn nigger! Are you calling me a liar?'

"I don't know what happened to me. I just fell all over myself trying to be nice.

" 'Why no, Mr. Gregory. Of course not. I never thought of such a thing. But Mr. Gregory, won't you look over the books again and make sure? Maybe you made a mistake.'

" 'All right,' he says, 'I'll figure it out again tonight.' "

"Made a mistake. . . . Huh!" exclaimed Mrs. Logan. "Catch Mr. Gregory making a mistake."

"The only mistakes Gregory ever makes is when he's reckoning up the bills of colored folks, or paying them off," said Robertson. "How do you think he got those houses, or that big car?"

"There'll be no mistake today," Sam told them. "I'm going to get paid. I'm going down there and I'm not going to take no for an answer. I'm not going to let him brow-beat me any longer. It's time we colored folks stopped belly-crawling and demanded what is ours."

Sam was putting on his jacket. His wife's face was strained, but she said nothing. There was an unusual silence among them. Sam was going down for his pay. He was in no mood for a refusal.

All these thoughts went through their minds. Tom Robertson particularly, was ill at ease. He had a guilty feeling. He tried to tell himself that what Sam was about to do concerned only Sam. But try as he might he could not convince himself.

"Guess I'll go along with you, Sam. There's something I want to buy down at Gregory's." Sam glanced at him with understanding eyes.

• • •

"Have you my pay ready, Mr. Gregory?" Sam asked politely.

"You here again?" Mr. Gregory exclaimed angrily. "Didn't I tell you yesterday that you've taken more goods than you had money coming to you?"

"But you said you'd figure it up again, as there might be a mistake. All I took was two dollars' worth," Sam answered.

"Well, I figured it up and it's correct. Now get out of here and don't bother me about this any more," Mr. Gregory barked at him.

Sam had made up his mind. He was going to get his pay. No white boss would brow-beat him any longer.

"I want my pay and I'll stay here till I get it," he militantly declared.

"You will, will you!" Mr. Gregory shouted. "Now you get out of here before I break every bone in your black body." He made a rush at Sam.

"Hold on there, Mr. Gregory," Tom Robertson cried. "You'll break nobody's bones. What you'll do is pay Sam Cullen the wages he's worked for."

This was too much for Mr. Gregory. He went insane with rage. He cursed and swore and yelled and threatened.

"——— whole god damn Niggertown getting together, huh! ——— bunch of lazy, thieving, bastards! Threatening a white man. . . ."

The yelling had aroused Mrs. Gregory. She came running in and in a moment sized up the situation. She disappeared, and returned a few moments later with a double barrel shotgun. Aiming the gun right at Sam, she fired. Sam screamed with pain, and fell.

At the sight of the gun, Robertson had turned to run; but the cry of his fallen comrade had stopped his flight. Swerving about he made a rush and tried to grab the gun from Mrs. Gregory. A tussle followed. Mr. Gregory seized on his back. Suddenly the gun went off. Mr. Gregory dropped. Robertson, gun in hand, fled.

He did not go towards his home, but started for the swamps. He had no false illusions about being able to explain that it was all an accident in white men's courts. He would hide in the swamps, and then make his way to another state. Perhaps in another state he would be safe.

The countryside was roused. Two "niggers" had attacked Mrs. Gregory. Valiantly the husband had defended her, killing one of the attackers; only to be shot in the back by a cowardly "nigger." The murderer was still at large.

It was astonishing how quickly a mob had formed. Real estate brokers, insurance agents, business men, even high school boys had joined the expedition. The men were excited. Not only would they avenge the murder of Mr. Gregory and protect white womanhood, but hunting niggers was the sport of sports. Bootleggers did a thriving business.

After searching Niggertown and not finding Robertson, the mob left for the swamps. All day they searched the swamps in vain. It was hot and the mosquitoes were fierce. Drooping spirits were continuously being revived by flasks. With the approach of dusk they departed for Altoona, disappointed and in an ugly mood.

It was night when they reached Altoona.

"Maybe he's made his way back to Niggertown," someone suggested.

To the Negro section the mob went again. They broke down doors and smashed windows, driving the frightened occupants out of bed and home. Fathers, mothers, young men and women, children, scantily dressed; all were herded together in a nearby lane. Robertson was nowhere to be found.

The trouble reached its climax when one of the protectors of white womanhood, unable to withstand the temptation, began pawing a young Negress in a cheap cotton nightgown. She boxed his ear. He swung a swift right to her jaw, knocking her over. He was about to kick the semi-conscious girl, when a Negro interfered. Then hell broke loose. The mob fell upon the unarmed Negroes, clubbing and beating them. There were shouts of agony, and cries of pain and fear. Suddenly a flame burst into the night. Then another. The houses were being fired. The tumble-down shacks that the Negroes called home, and all their worldly possessions went shooting to the sky, making day out of night.

The following day throughout the nation newspapers reported that a race riot had taken place in Altoona, resulting in the death of six Negroes, one a woman; and one white man. The Negro section of the city had been burned down by an angry mob seeking a murderer that was being harbored there. He had attacked a white woman and shot her husband. The situation was under control. The murderer was still at large.

Poor Tom Robertson! He had had no illusions about the justice of courts, but still was naive enough to believe he could escape from this system of persecution and exploitation by running away to another state.

A week later Altoona heard with satisfaction that he had been captured in a nearby state. A mob had broken into the jailhouse and hung him to a telegraph pole. The wrath of Altoona was appeased. "White womanhood" had been saved from pollution!

LYNCHINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

Manchester Guardian
Weekly 1-16-31
Manchester, Eng.

Doubled in 1930

(From a Correspondent.)

Careful records of lynchings in America are kept by the National Association for the Advancement of the Coloured People, of New York, and according to their statistics, complete until within a day or two of the new year, there was a hundred per cent increase in these exhibitions of mob law in 1930 compared with 1929. The total of authenticated lynchings was 25, a white man being the victim in one case, compared with 12 negroes lynched in 1929. Seven victims were thus done to death in Georgia, four each in Alabama and Texas, three in Mississippi, two each in Indiana and South Carolina, while there was one lynching each in Florida, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. In Texas one victim was burned alive in gaol, and in the same State the body of another victim was burned.

No. 3
Vol. 24

Terrible as these figures are, there has been a great improvement in the last decade, so that the increase is all the more regrettable. According to the recent authoritative volume "The Negro in American Negro Civilisation," edited by Dr. Charles S. Johnson, the Professor of Social Science at Fisk University, who has been a member of the League of Nations Commission whose report on slavery in Liberia has just been made public, whereas the peak year for lynchings was 1892 when there were 226, including 71 white victims, in 1920 there were eight white and 57 coloured persons lynched, these figures falling to 18 coloured and no white men lynched in 1925. In 1928 the total was eight coloured and one white victim.

Commenting on the 1930 figures, Mr. Walter White, of the National Association for the Advancement of the Coloured People and author of the recent study of lynching "Rope and Faggot," pointed out that rape was assigned as an excuse in only three cases. "That lynching is not and has never been primarily a 'protection of white womanhood' in the South or elsewhere is attested by the increasing number of resolutions passed by leading white women in Southern States repudiating this form of barbarity.

Young Liberators Hit Lynching of Gunn; Demand Fight On Terror

Daily Worker
N.Y.
2-4-31

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1.—In a resolution denouncing the brutal burning alive of Raymond Gunn, Negro worker, at Maryville, Mo., on Jan. 12, the North Philadelphia branch of the Young Liberators calls upon the workers, Negro and white, to unite in an aggressive struggle against the bosses' lynching terror which took over 38 victims last year, and has already murdered 7 during Jan. 1931.

The resolution exposes lynching as "one of the forms used by the boss class in order to hold the Negro masses and the entire working class in subjection, by dividing them and by using the more savage terroristic means for intimidating the workers" and pledges the North Phila. branch to "carry on the struggle untiring against lynching and all forms of race discrimination and Jim Crowism and that we call upon all Negro and white workers to join us in the struggle against lynching, to build defense corps that will meet the lynch mobs with physical resistance."

A copy of the resolution has been sent to the Negro press.

NEWS

Moorhead, Minn.

FEB 2 1931

THAT "THOROUGH INVESTIGATION."

A week has passed and the "thorough investigation" into the Bannon lynching, promised by Governor Shafer of North Dakota, has accomplished nothing, which was to be expected. Most people realized that the governor's promises were actually a lot of "hooey" and that there would be little difficulty in learning who the lynchers were if any one of high authority really wanted to find out.

The fact that Charles Bannon was guilty of one of the most atrocious crimes ever committed in the northwest, does not excuse the citizens around Shafer, in taking the law into their own hands. An excuse can sometimes be found for the actions of a mob, which under the stress of passion and excitement of the moment, commits some violent deed that is in itself a crime. But the group at Shafer was not a mob in any real sense of the word. Bannon had confessed almost a month before and whatever stress or passion that was aroused had cooled. There was no danger of his escaping justice, as provided by constituted law.

The lynching of the slayer of the Haven family was a premeditated act by a group of supposedly intelligent people, responsible for their acts. It had no doubt been thoroughly planned and discussed for some time, by a group intent upon taking the law into their own hands. There is little difference between that and premeditated murder.

It is rather beyond the stretch of one's imagination to believe that there would be any difficulty in bringing to light the names of the lynchers. It also seems doubtful that those officials responsible for bringing Bannon back to Shafer could have failed to know that the lynching was being planned. But McKenzie county is Governor Shafer's home county and, in view of the investigation as conducted thus far, we predict that those guilty of the lynching will escape all embarrassment.

Union

WALLA WALLA

WASHINGTON

FEB 2 - 1931

HARD TO UNDERSTAND

Lynchings are not all confined to the south though most of them occur there, partially because of racial antipathy and because certain individuals seems to get into certain kinds of trouble there more often. Within the last few days at Schafer, N. D. an angry mob of eighty men broke into a jail took therefrom a white man and hanged him to a bridge. He previously confessed to slaying a family of six.

The reason for the lynching is rather hard to understand, from this distance. The crime was committed nearly a year ago and Charles Bannon, the suspect, was arrested last November. Early in December he freely admitted the crime.

Two months later a mob is organized and now a black mark has been chalked up against a state which has been rather free from such things. Had the mob broken into the jail right after the confession one could have a better understanding of the situation, but when two months have elapsed, and the man is right on the eve of being arraigned in court to plead to the murder charges, it is difficult to see through.

The governor has ordered an investigation, but that is probably about as far as it will go.

Nation

2-11-31

Vol. 132, No. 3423

[illegible]

TWO LYNCHINGS have occurred so far this year. One took place on January 28 in Shafer, North Dakota, when a mob took from the county jail the confessed murderer (white) of six persons, man and wife and their four children, and hanged him from a nearby bridge. The other was more true to form. A Negro in Maryville, Missouri, had by his own admission assaulted and murdered a young white school teacher; although the National Guard was present and awaiting a call from the sheriff in case of attempted violence to the prisoner, no call was issued, the Negro was mobbed, chained to the roof of the schoolhouse, and the building burned about him. In both lynchings the victims were in jail, they had confessed to atrocious crimes, there was no doubt that they would be speedily punished to the full extent of the law. Yet the white man and the Negro, in the North and in the South, were left to the mercy of a murderous mob because local officials were not willing to do their sworn duty and protect their prisoners by force if necessary. Sheriff England of Maryville declared he did not call out the guard because he was afraid somebody might get hurt; Sheriff Thompson of Schafer said the whole affair was most discouraging. The Missouri House of Representatives refused to entertain a resolution condemning the county officials for not resisting the mob. By contrast, Governor Shafer of North Dakota calls the lynching in his State a "shameful act which destroys the good reputation of the State for law and order." It remains to be seen whether any citizen of North Dakota will be punished for it. In both cases lynch law is tolerated because local officials, backed up by local public opinion, tolerate it.

COLUMBUS, O.

OHIO STATE JOURNAL

FEB 9 - 1931

A Blow at Lynching.

Tennessee has opened a campaign to prevent lynching. Public sentiment has been organized to support helpful legislation and a pending measure provides automatic suspension of any officer from whom a prisoner is taken by a mob, and if the prisoner is lynched that fact, if this bill is passed, is to be counted as prima facie evidence of wilful neglect of duty. The measure has been informally approved by a large majority in both House and Senate and its passage is conceded.

With that law in force officers will be quick to secure adequate help in protecting any threatened prisoner. No man would want to be ousted from office for wilful failure, or be forced to face the charge of being less than brave in the line of duty. If Tennessee has occasion to dump overboard any officer who shows indifference in the face of a mob and who surrenders a prisoner to be murdered, lynching will receive a hard jolt. The most helpful feature in this picture is the aroused sentiment of the state in opposition to mob murder.

Capital

DES MOINES

IOWA

FEB 11 1931

Effect of Lynchings on State.

North Dakota's record in the matter of lynchings is nothing to boast of—the last one is the twelfth since 1889. As Governor Shafer says, this mob crime injures the reputation of the state for law and order. The chief law officers of the state are on the ground. The leaders of the mob should be sought out and promptly made to expiate their offense against the honor of the state.—New York World.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

EVE. UNION

MAR 20 1931

"A Crime for a Crime"

The question was raised in these columns whether the knowledge that perpetrators of fiendish assaults upon women would receive swift and adequate punishment in the courts would not militate against the deplorable resort to mob lynchings. Particular point is lent this query by a letter to the New York Herald Tribune in reply to an editorial in that paper condemning the disgraceful lynching of a Negro for an exceptionally revolting assault upon a young school teacher. Under the above heading the correspondent insists that Maryville Christianity is under no obligation to give an answer. "The community of Maryville has answered and its answer was written in tongues of fire."

He paints a striking and pathetic picture indeed: The parents of two children who gave their son to the country's cause. The same parents deprived of their remaining child by a fiendish, diabolical crime. The mother driven insane by grief. The father, alone, facing the triple sorrow. The girl—young, pretty and talented—with all the prospects of a beautiful and happy life, sole joy of her parents and beloved by all who knew her, cut down in the flower of her girlhood by a fiend who had previously spent time in the penitentiary for criminal assault.

However one may be inclined to condemn a crime in expiation of another whose details were "too terrible and revolting for the newspapers to print," it must be admitted that the State must bear its share of the shame for failing to take steps on a first offense to prevent the possibility of a second and more serious crime.

Lynchings - 1931
&
Discussions.

Negro Press, (Northern).
6

3380

Georgia Police Chief Declares Any Determined Officer Can Halt Mob

Call - 1-23-31
Kansas City, Mo.

ATLANTA, Ga. — (ANP) — That lynching is "the worst blot upon our civilization, but a crime which practically any determined officer can prevent if he will only work quick enough," was the statement of Police Chief Ben. T. Watkins of Macon, president of the Georgia Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers, who delivered the principal address at the annual meeting of the Georgia Interracial Commission held in this city, January 14.

Among the causes of lynching, Chief Watkins mentioned, "race prejudice, the slow processes of justice, crooked lawyers, political fear, and legal loopholes." As a remedy he recommended 'fearless law enforcement and speedy trials, the education of public opinion, intelligent precautionary measures, and vigorous prosecution of those committing mob violence." Every jail in the state, he said, should be equipped with tear bombs and machine guns for use in such emergencies.

At the conclusion of this address, the commission requested that every minister in Georgia deliver from his pulpit a vigorous pronouncement against lynching and other forms of mob violence.

Encouraging facts in the interracial situation, pointed out by Arthur Raper, secretary of the commission, included "the unfavorable public reaction to the 'Black Shirt' movement, which resulted in its collapse; the organization of Negro Boy Scouts in a number of cities, the improvement here and there of educational facilities for Negroes; and the cooperation of the State Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers in the prevention of mob activities."

A hundred men and women were present from various parts of the State, and an interesting program was carried out Among the speakers were: Forrester B. Washington, director of the Atlanta School of Social work; Rev. D. H. Stanton, president H. A. Hunt of Fort Valley High and Industrial School, Mrs. H. R. Butler, president of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, and a number of others. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Comer Woodward of Emory university, who is chairman of the state commission.

TOAST THE GOOD WOMEN OF GEORGIA

Courier 1-24-31
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PRESS dispatches from the South tell us that the good white women of Georgia have organized to stop lynching. This declaration alone deserves a national "toast" to the good women of Georgia.

Lynching, as we recall its history, was first justified on the ground that American womanhood had been violated and the perpetrator deserved death by lynching. This excuse for the barbaric practice of lynching was employed at the beginning, but it was not long before Negroes were lynched for almost every reason under the sun and, as the practice grew and developed, reasons for lynching varied. We have read of lynchings because Negroes would not pay their bills; we have heard of lynchings because Negroes insulted street car conductors; and we have heard of lynchings because Negroes refused to confess when charged with serious offenses. Almost any cause has been sufficient for the mob. As a result of the failure of officers entrusted with the enforcement of the law to perform their duty, mob violence has grown to such shameful proportions in the United States of America that we have an international reputation as a nation of mobs. No longer is the violation of womanhood, or even the supposed violation of womanhood necessary to create a mob and a lynching. Our mobs have become so efficient and so well organized that lynchings are performed as methodically and smoothly as any other organized undertaking in the country.

It is most encouraging, then, to receive reliable reports from the South that the good white women of the South have decided to stop lynching, or at least to abolish the so-called justifiable lynchings. The good white women of Georgia have organized the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching. One has but to read the names of the women heading the association to determine the character and caliber of the movement. The husbands of these women are outstanding men of the South and it is generally accepted that the good women could not and would not undertake such an organization without consulting their husbands, and the association was started in the right place. Georgia has about the most shameful record of any state in the Union, and the place to abolish disgrace is the place where disgrace is most prevalent.

The women of the South have listened impatiently to the old, worn out story about protecting the white womanhood of the South. Some of these same white women, or at least their mothers, know that during the Civil War their husbands and fathers went to the army and left the flower of Southern womanhood in charge of Negroes. Not a single instance of assault or attack or of rape was reported during all those trying days, and the white women of the South know better than anybody that the Negro innately is a protector of womanhood, rather than a violator. They know that it is unfair to use them as a smoke-screen to justify lynching. Theeir sense of fairness has been given expression in the form of an association to prevent lynching. It will not be long before the efforts of these good women will find not only helpful co-operation in the South, but substantial assistance from those entrusted with the enforcement of the law. Their cause is just and the women are right, and no red-blooded man will refuse a woman when she is right. This country of ours is improving—slowly but steadily improving—and when such names as those heading the Association for the Prevention of Lynching appear boldly in public print, the country may rest assured that something is going to be done.

The Pittsburgh Courier calls upon every decent, respectable, upstanding man of the South to lend to these good women every possible support and every possible encouragement. Negroes can lend a great deal to the movement by insisting upon better behavior among themselves. We can do a great deal if we will toward discouraging smart, ignorant, impudent and reckless Negroes who care nothing for themselves and little or nothing for society. We offer our toast to the good women of Georgia and extend our congratulations to the whole South.

MARYVILLE AFTERMATH

Courier 1-24-31
Pittsburgh, Pa.

REPORTS from Maryville, last week, brought us the horrible story of the burning of a Negro and a schoolhouse by a mob blind with madness and obsessed with the spirit of the beast. The reports were unanimous in stating that the Negro had confessed.

And on the question of confession, let it be stated that the Negro or the victim of the mob is always reported as having confessed. While we do not hold any brief for criminals, it is pertinent to remark that the alleged confessions of the victims are always reported to the public by members of the mob. We never hear directly from the victim, nor do we hear from anybody not connected with the mob, that the victim actually confessed. The mob simply states that he confessed, and it is fair to assume that in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred the victim is never given an opportunity to confess or even to pray; and it is just as fair to assume that if the victim denies the charge, he is lynched for denying it and his denial is never reported by the mob.

But the amazing thing about the lynching at Maryville comes in the form of the statement of the sheriff. He is reported as practically admitting that he did not call the troops to protect the Negro. He is reported as practically saying that he did not want to see anybody get hurt. It is also reported that at the time the Negro was lynched the judge was in the courtroom sitting on the bench, waiting to have the Negro brought in for trial, and the only explanation given by the sheriff is that he did not want to see anybody get hurt.

The governor could not make the sheriff use the troops, but there ought to be some way for the governor to give the people of Maryville a red-blooded American as sheriff. The aftermath of the lynching stinks about as badly as the lynching.

THE AMERICAN MOB

Courier

AGAIN the American mob has taken the stage. In a little town out in Missouri, known as Marysville, a mob of three thousand white men and women and some children is reported to have burned to death a Negro charged with assault, upon a white school teacher. The mob is reported to have taken the Negro to the very schoolhouse where the teacher taught the little American children, and there burned the Negro to death and reduced the schoolhouse to ashes.

1-17-31 Pittsburgh, Pa.

We do not know how any mob could express itself in terms of greater torture and destruction. Fire is an all-consuming agency—it leaves nothing in its wake. We take it that the American mob, in resorting to fire, has employed about the last means of destruction known to human ingenuity. We take it now that the modern method of lynching is by fire, until some more torturing method can be discovered.

The burning of this Negro at Maryville, Missouri, and the destruction of the schoolhouse recall a similar incident which happened in the state of Texas not many months since. There a courthouse was destroyed by fire in order to appease the wrath of an American mob.

We do not know what estimate to place upon American civilization when it can produce mobs which defy the law and destroy two of the high symbols of civilization, viz: a courthouse and a schoolhouse. The destruction of these two institutions clearly indicates that America is degenerating. We say America is degenerating because the mob is a part of American agencies of race hatred. The mob is allowed to express American contempt and the mob is permitted to resort to fire as a suitable means of torture and destruction. America expresses its race hatred and colorphobia through the agency of the mob run mad with fire. If our courthouse is to be destroyed by the mob and the action of the mob condoned; if our schoolhouses are to be burned down by the mob and the action of the mob entirely ignored, if not altogether approved; if these symbols of civilization are to become the prey of the American mob and nothing is to be done about it, then America stands indicted as contributing to the destruction of her own symbols of civilization. Needless to say the nation is headed to ruin, and its leader is the mob, sanctioned and condoned.

We hold no brief for any Negro who commits crime. We hold no brief for any white man who commits crime. Our institutions were created and sanctioned for the purpose of protecting the civilization the forefathers of this country attempted to establish. There is a well defined and accepted method of punishing criminals. Courthouses have long since been acceptetd as the place where justice is meted out, and the public has been taught to await orderly procedure by our courts. Our courthouses have been set up as symbols of intelligence and civilization, and the public has been taught to look to the schoolroom as the cradle of civilization. But in these United States of America, with a government sufficiently equipped to cope with wars at home and abroad, the mob is permitted to destroy our courthouses and to burn down our schoolhouses with no other excuse than that a Negro allegedly committed murder.

There are types of American white people who will say that we can afford to lose a courthouse and a schoolhouse because we have sufficient wealth to replace them; and there are Negroes who can say, if we choose, that we can afford to contribute a worthless criminal Negro to appease the American mob and replace him with another worthless criminal Negro. But such admissions as these contribute nothing toward the correction of evil. It is not the building nor the intrinsic value of the building that counts—it is what the building symbolizes that counts. Likewise, it is not the worthless criminal Negro, burned at the stake, that counts—it is what human life symbolizes that counts. It will not be long before the American mob will be burning white men and white women, but it will be a long, long time before the world will believe that the American civilization is sincere and sound.

Our white people of this country who profess to be highly religious; who desire to be called Christian, and who boast of the wealth of the world, may find a degree of satisfaction in giving ample and sufficient trial to a Dr. Snook in Ohio and burning a Raymond Gunn in Missouri, but they can find little satisfaction in knowing that they are teaching the children of today, who will be the men of tomorrow, that our courthouses represent nothing but brick and mortar and that our schoolhouses symbolize so much fagot. In short, our Christianity is a lie and our civilization a sham.

NORTH DAKOTA MOVES UP

Defender

In the 1931 Lynch League, which was opened early in January, by Missouri's burning of a man on top of a schoolhouse, North Dakota jumped into second place last week by throwing a white man from a river bridge with a rope about his neck and the other end tied to the bridge. Both states employed the usual methods in carrying out their lynchings, although from the precentage point of view Missouri is a bit ahead of North Dakota, in view of the fact that no person has ever been burned on top of a schoolhouse before, while a man was thrown from a bridge in exactly the same manner as the Dakota affair three years ago at Houston, Tex.

2-7-31

The recent lynching in North Dakota is not the first score that state had made in the lynching league. As quiet as it is kept, that state has taken eight lives by the mob route. And it has not been prejudiced about it, either. In 1883 three Indians were sacrificed to the mob; in 1895 a white deputy sheriff was offered on the altar of lynch; 1898 saw another white horse thief strung up by the mob: white men were lynched in 1912 and 1913 for murder. But the single dark citizen of North Dakota to be executed by the mob was Charles Thurber, who, also, was North Dakota's first lynchee. He was hanged to a bridge in pretty much the same fashion as the most recent victim, back in 1882.

Chicago

And so, while North Dakota has maintained a fair average of lynchings, only one of the eight was of the Race, while three were Indians. It is safe to say that had other states been as impartial in choosing their lynch victims as has North Dakota the entire institution of lynching would have been wiped out throughout the country, and law would have come into its own. It has been proved that the best way to put out a fire is to build another fire in the path of the flame and direct the latter one toward the former. When the two fires meet they spend themselves trying to devour each other.

Let each of the lynch states turn over just one white man to a mob during 1931 and we can close the books on the Lynch League.

MO. STUDENTS TO FIGHT FOR ANTI-MOB BILL

Defender

2-7-31

Chicago, Ill.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. [illegible]—Shocked by the recent lynching at Maryville, Mo., the college students of this state are being enlisted in a campaign against mob violence, including the support of a special antilynching bill which was introduced in the legislature following the Maryville tragedy.

The movement was initiated by Miss Louise Parks, a student in Drury college, Springfield, who has sent out a letter to the presidents of all the Y. W. C. A. student associations in the state asking them to make inquiries locally as to what students can do to register their disapproval of such crimes; to write Governor Caufield, asking him what plans he has for the prosecution of the participants in the Maryville mob and for the prevention of similar crimes; to write their representatives in the legislature, asking for support of the antilynching bill, and to circulate petitions among the student body to the same end.

The national student council of the Y. W. C. A. is co-operating in the movement through Miss Fern Babbcock, national student secretary.

LYNCHINGS IN U.S. & LIBERIA ARE COMPARED

Recorder

2-21-31

Indianapolis, Indiana

German News Papers "Das Andere Deutchland" Discusses Injustices Visited Upon Negroes In America.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—A parallel between reports of slavery in Liberia and the injustices visited upon Negroes in the United States is made in the German newspaper "Das Andere Deutschland," copy of which has reached the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The comment on American conditions includes reference to the lynching record, and to the attempt of President Hoover, blocked by mass action of colored Americans, to force Judge Parker's confirmation as a member of the U. S. Supreme Court. Referring to these American conditions, the German newspaper says (translated):

"After such successes of Hoover in the struggle for oppressed Negroes, we feel justified in connection with his sudden solicitude for Liberian Negroes, to assume motives other than mere humanity; we feel all the more so since his interest for this little nation does not date from yesterday."

Lynchings - 1931
Discussions.

Negro Press (Northern.)

3381

Southern White Women Organize to Crystallize Sentiment Against Lynching Orgies in This Country

N.Y. Age
7-25-31

New York, N.Y.

Atlata, Ga.—The progress of the organization of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is serving as a medium for the crystallization of an overwhelming sentiment in the South against this crime. Government by law instead of mobs has a direct appeal to women whose hearts are bound up in the preservation of home and child life.

Mississippi, under the leadership of Mrs. L. W. Alford and a strong executive committee composed of Mrs. C. H. Alexander, Mrs. J. Morgan Stevens, Miss Margaret Lackey, Mrs. T. D. Bratton and Mrs. W. W. Epperson, has spread the movement over thirty-six counties numbering several score of towns and cities. Before the year is over, the organization will doubtless cover the entire state with a membership of several thousand. This State Association has enlisted in an advisory committee, many of the leading professional men.

Kentucky Follows Suit

Kentucky, following the same program as Mississippi, is having the same success. Tennessee has organized under a permanent chairman, Mrs. F. C. Paschal. The women of the other southern states have completed their permanent program and are following through along the same lines.

The statistics for the first six months of each year in the last decade are cause for hope. In 1922, the year of a similar depression thirty lynchings were recorded as compared with the five of this year. The first six months of 1929 had the lowest record—one less than this year—but this period marked the peak of our prosperity. The coming twelve months will make the heaviest demands upon all forces within the South pledged to uphold a government by law only.

Texas Seeks Record

Governors of States have pledged themselves to uphold the law and the Constitution. This year marks an increased vigilance upon the part of these officials. In Texas, Governor Ross Sterling early in the year gave out a satement that he and the Adjutant General were committed to a "lynchless year"—the second, if Governor Sterling succeeds, within the history of Texas. This in the State that records the notorious "Sherman case." In this case, fifteen men are on trial for arson. One, so far, has been convicted and given two years in the penitentiary. Nothing to become smug about, but at least a public declaration that citizens must not burn court houses to "get their man."

Alabama still has the Scottsboro case to handle. The circumstances surrounding this case contain so many conflicting and doubtful situations that a grave question has arisen in the minds of many leading Alabama citizens as to whether a lynching by a mob was not averted at the expense of the integrity of the law. Less than two days was consumed in the trials of all nine of the Negro boys, eight of whom received the death sentence.

CHICAGO QUIZZES GOV. RITCHIE ON LYNCHING

Chicago-[illegible]
12-12-31
Baltimore, Md.

Mr. Governor Doesn't Think Salisbury Mob Can be Punished.

SAYS HE IS FOR STATE'S RIGHTS

As President, Wouldn't Recommend National Anti-Lynch Law.

By THEODORE HOLMES
(For ANP)

CHICAGO—"Well, now, Governor, I understand that you are in line to become a candidate for President. What would be your position in respect to a national anti-lynching law if you should become a candidate?"

"Good gracious! that's too blamed far off to talk about now," replied Governor Albert C. Ritchie, Maryland's favorite son, to your correspondent shortly after he had arrived here Sunday afternoon over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

Having covered a lynching in Little Rock, Ark., a few years ago with such frankness that I was forced to leave town, I welcomed the assignment to greet the prospective Democratic standard bearer on the heels of news to the effect that a Marylander had just been yanked from a hospital bed, hanged and burned to death in Governor Ritchie's commonwealth.

The governor seemed a bit taken aback when I pushed through the crowd and extended my hand to him a few seconds after he and Mayor Howard Jackson had alighted from the train. But his presence of mind soon returned to him and he accepted my proffered hand. The governor's apparent embarrassment at being so suddenly confronted by a colored reporter was relieved while we shook hands by the interjection of a pleasantry by Michael Igoe, white, Democratic national committeeman for Illinois, who informed me that I was meeting the next President of the United States and the next Governor of Illinois, meaning himself.

Mayor Jackson

My presence in the group was also a bit puzzling to Mayor Howard W. Jackson, for as we walked on I overheard Mr. Igoe inform the Baltimore executive that there were four or five "darky" newspapers in town. Mr. Igoe has many friends among colored residents here and poses as "the angel" of the colored Democrats in the city.

"But, Governor," I persisted, "surely you have some position in respect to lynching. You can say whether you favor or do not favor an anti-lynching bill, can you not?"

Mr. Ritchie demurred.

"Would you prefer then for me to report you as not being willing to be quoted on the subject?" I followed up.

State's Rights

"Well, yes," he replied. "You see, I am an advocate of state's rights. I believe that the states should take care of those things."

"What are you going to do about Friday's lynching in Maryland?" I inquired.

"As soon as I heard about it, I went to Baltimore and started the attorney general to work on it," he answered, adding: "I have instructed him to keep me fully informed as to developments."

Where Sheriff Was

"Where was the sheriff when the lynching occurred?" I pursued, having in mind Governor Ritchie's recently expressed desire on two occasions, to leave the matter of mob control up to county authority.

The Maryland governor and Presidential aspirant, did not know where the sheriff was, nor what he was going to do to the sheriff if that official had been negligent in the performance of his duty.

"Will any of the mob members be punished?" I asked.

Doesn't Think Mob Can Be Punished

"We are going to try to get them," he responded, "but I doubt that we shall have much success. It is very difficult to get grand juries to indict in such cases."

Pleasant and Frank

Thus this tall and angular bit of Presidential timber was not very hopeful about mob violence in his state and had no encouraging position in respect to lynching as a national crime.

Throughout the interview, however, after the first shock, he was pleasant and unrestrained, and concluded it by inviting your correspondent to visit him and question him further at his hotel.

LYNCHING FLAYED BY NON-PARTISAN CONFAB HERE

Tribune
12-[illegible]-31
Washington, D.C.

Speakers Issue Challenge to Government in First DePriest Meeting

With over 150 delegates from nearly every state in the country, the Non-Partisan Conerence sponsored by Congressman Oscar De Priest got under way at Metropolitan Baptist Church, Wednesday. The sessions will last until Friday when the final meeting will be addressed by Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, and Clarence S. Darrow of Chicago.

Walter White, National Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was sheduled to address the meeting Wednesday night, but was unable to be present due to the death of his father, George W. White, who died in Atlanta, Ga., following an automobile accident some time ago. The funeral was held Tuesday.

Lynching

Two outstanding messages were delivered to the conference Tuesday. A. S. Pinkett, local secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., spoke on "Disfranchisement," at the afternoon session, while the Rev. J. C. Austin, pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Chicago, addressed the meeting at night on "Lynching."

Dr. Kelly Miller, of Howard University, gave the outline and purpose of the conference. Bishop E. D. W. Jones, of the A. M. E. Zion Church, presided at the first public meeting Wednesday night. He introduced Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkins, reginal secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., Pittsburgh, Pa., who was the mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Lampkins presented the Rev. Austin.

Outstanding Women

Outstanding women who were introduced and spoke Wednesday were Mary McLeod Bethune of Florida; Nannie H. Burroughs, president of the National Training School for Women and Girls, Washington; Mrs. Oscar DePriest, Jane Hunter, Cleveland; and Mrs. Maggie Walker, head of the St. Luke Bank, Richmond.

At Wednesday's afternoon session ex-congressman Thomas Miller, of Philadelphia, spoke. Mr. Miller is 82 years of age and is the father of 19 children. The early morning session was devoted to the registration of delegates and routine organization. Congressman DePriest was elected chairman. James Kelly, Alabama, secretary; Mrs. B. A. Washington, corresponding secretary; Morris Lewis, treasurer; Louis T. Coates, registrar; Mrs. Dorothy Lewis and Mrs. Margaret Coates, clerk.

3381

Committee Heads

The following chairmen of various committees were named: Robert L. Van, C. Murphy, civil service Louis Coates, credentials; Bishop W. J. Walls, lynching; Alla G. Berry, disfranchisement; Garnet C. Wilkinson, distribution of federal funds for education; Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, economic opportunities; Mrs. Sallie W. Stewart, women in public life.

The conference is non-partisan according to the address by Dr. Kelly Miller. The speaker urged members to vote for men and measures. "Negroes should qualify in the south and vote under their present circumstances until the time comes to change it. This meeting is not condemning or endorsing any party or person," said Dr. Miller.

Highlights

In discussing lynching the Rev. Austin made the following statements:

"Negroes regard lynching too lightly."

"Our cause in Mississippi is as truly mine as it is in Chicago."

"Every white man should be called in from the foreign missionary field and sent to the south to first prove his ability to Christianize heathens in far away lands."

"The Negro race shows that the white man likes us under the shadow of night."

"If you build a fence of rope and fire some white women and colored men will choose it to get to each other."

"The world frowns on America for its attitude toward the Negro."

"Fight for freedom and justice and die in the attempt."

"Any man who would save his life must lose it."

"A group of new Negoes are forging to the front willing and ready to die."

Challenges Country

"By what right has this country to stop an Al Capone and let mobs go free."

"Communists parade in Chicago without a permit because they don't mind dying."

"I am one preacher that don't like the Eighteenth Amendment."

"There never was a law of God to rule out the passions of men.'

"To keep Adam from eating the apple God did not dig up the tree, but told Adam to leave.

"The Government is trying to enforce things that cannot be enforced and leaving out things that can be forced."

World Peace Farce

"What part can America play in world peace when mobs are killing in this country."

"It is like a preacher preaching of love and leaving his wife at home with a black eye."

"Lynching will increase as Negroes become more intelligent."

"Hoover called us here on a housing committee. What do we care of houses unless the government protects us in them."

"The Negro is rapidly feeling that it is useless to call on the law to defend him."

On Thursday the meetings were held at Metropolitan A. M. E. Church. Mrs. Sallie Stewart, president of the National Association of Colored Women spoke on "Civil Service" at the morning session. Other speakers were Dr Harold M. Kingsley, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepard, Chicago; and Mrs. Blanche A. Washington, Tampa, Florida.

Kansas Editor

Thursday evening William J. Thompson, editor of the Kansas City American, addressed the audience on "Distribution of Federal Educational Funds." Others to speak were Dr. Gilbert H. Jones president of Wilberforce University; and Garnet C. Wilkinson, first assistant superintendent of schools, Washington.

Thursday night J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of Elks addressed the audience on "Economic Opportunities." Others were Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, editor of the Crisis and Miss Nannie H. Burroughs.

Johnson and Darrow

Friday morning Mrs. George S. Williams, Republican Committeewoman of Georgia, spoke on "Religion and Politics." Bishop George C. Clement, Louisville, Ky., and Dr. Vernon Johns, president of Virginia Seminary, Lynchburg, Va., will speak. Mrs. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, principal of Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, N. C., will speak on "Women in Public Life" in the afternoon.

Others will be Mrs. Addie W. Dickerson, Philadelphia; Mrs. Ella G. Berry, Chicago; and Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Washington.

The closing meeting Friday night will be addressed by Dr. Mordecai Johnson and Clarence Darrow. Judge E. W. Henry, of Philadelphia, will preside. Kelly Miller will also be one of the speakers.

HOOVER IGNORES LYNCHING PLEA BY DELEGATION

Baltimore

12-4-31

Washington D.C.

Tells Group To Take Their Troubles To Congress As He Could Do Nothing

Practically ignoring every demands made by a delegation from the National Equal Rights League against mob violence, disfranchisement and jim crowism, President Hoover told the group to take their complaints to Congress, as that body made the laws and he could do nothing.

The President refused to say he would ask Congress in his message to provide a Federal law against lynching.

William Monroe Trotter, of Boston, was the spokesman for the delegation. The League was in session here, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, in its thirty-third annual meeting at John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Fourteenth and Corcoran streets, northwest.

Igores Mob Protest

When the President's attention was called to the practice of civil service applicants filing their photographs so as to enable the heads to bar colored persons, the President said, after all the applicants had to be interviewed and the heads of the various departments had an opportunity then to eliminate colored persons if they wanted to. The Chief Executive ignored the protest against lynching until he was asked. Then he evaded the issue as long as he could. Finally Mr. Hoover said he couldn't do anything and advised the group to take their troubles to Congress.

Opposed to Mixing

In the matter of segregation in the Federal Government, the President asked the delegation did they want him to fire colored persons so that those remaining could mix with newly hired white ones. Mr. Trotter told Mr. Hoover, if this was necessary to bring about the abolishment of segregation it would be better to discharge any number. The President took issue with this and said he did not think it would be advisable to do such a thing.

The delegation was composed of Maurice W. Spencer, national president of the organization; W. Monroe Trotter, Rev. Hampton T. Gaskins, Mrs. Minnie Scott, of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs; Mrs. Eva Monroe, Illinois; Rev. C. C. Somerville, Virginia; T. H. R. Clarke, Elisha Almond, Rev. E. C. Smith, J. W. Austin and Rev. E. L. Harrison.

Delegation Disgusted

The message to the President advocated the passing of a Federal anti-lynching law in the Chief Executive's annual message to Congress, the enforcement of a law for the Fifteenth Amendmnet the same as for the Eighteenth Amendment, abolishing of segregation in Federal Departments, and the "War Department's secret color line order stopping re-enlistments and promotions in colored units of the Army."

In discussing segregation, Mr. Hoover asked for specific instances. When told that the delegation had not brought them the President said colored persons were better fitted for certain types of work. The delegation took this to mean that Mr. Hoover favored jim crow.

Officers Re-elected

All of the national offices of the League were re-elected. The only change was the election of Elisha E. Almond as recording secretary, to succeed the late James L. Neill.

Officers re-elected were Maurice W. Spencer, president; Bishop W. J. Walls, Chicago, first vice-president; B. W. Swain, Louisville, Ky., second vice-president; George E. Gordon, Massachusetts, third vice-president; Alisha E. Almond, recording secretary; the Rev. C. C. Williams, Massachusetts, assistant; J. W .M. Austin, treasurer; the Rev. C. C. Somerville, Portsmouth, Va., chaplain; T. H. R. Clarke, chairman of the petition committee.

Speakers at the closing session, Monday, were Hon. Oscar DePriest, Bishop W. J. Walls, Chicago; Isaac Nutter, Atlantic City; and J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of Elks.

Harten Asks Hoover to Make Lynching a Federal Crime

Afro American 12-5-31

WASHINGTON. — Declaring that some of the states had demonstrated that they could not or would not properly deal with the lynching evil in this country, the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, pastor, Holy Trinity Baptist Church, of Brooklyn, N.Y., has called upon President Hoover to use his influence in having it made a Federal crime.

Baltimore

The request, embodied in a letter to the chief executive, points out that the lynching evil is not only a domestic sore on the body politic, but that it has caused the United States to be pointed out as the only country in all the world where such barbarism is tolerated.

President Silent

Attention of the President is called to the fact that, while the late President Woodrow Wilson denounced lynching and mob violence and that former President Calvin Coolidge spoke at length against the savagery of lynching, he (Hoover) had not uttered one word against the evil.

"You have led the way," the letter says, "for the government to spend fifty-millions of dollars annually to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment, while the Fourteenth and Fifteenth seem to be dead issues. Lynching is violation of and assault upon government, incipient anarchy and rebellion. As gravely injurious to the general welfare it justifies Federal action."

Protect Selves

In somewhat of a warning cry, the Rev. Mr. Harten told the President that if lynchings increase and the Federal government fails to aid, the lynched race may in desperation feel compelled to protect themselves. This, he says, would mean riot, massacre and civil war.

Lynching Record Numbers Fifteen

12-19-31

CHICAGO, Dec. 17—(ANP)—Two lynchings which occurred at Lewisburg, W. Va, Thursday, Dec. 10, marked the 14th and the 15th for the year. These were the first this year for West Virginia. The totals for states now stand.

Mississippi	3
Alabama	2
Florida	2
West Virginia	2
Missouri	1
North Dakota	1
Tennessee	1
Louisiana	1
Arkansas	1
Maryland	1
TOTAL	15

Wm. Monroe Trotter Lays Grievances Before Hoover

Amsterdam News

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—A petition asking President Hoover to request Congress for an anti-lynching law was laid before the Chief Executive today by a delegation headed by William M. Trotter of Boston, of the National Equal Rights League. The President "did not commit himself on the request, but advised them to carry it personally to Congress," Mr. Trotter stated after the conference.

The President also was petitioned for an executive order abolshing segregation of Negro government workers.

12-2-31

"This segregation reduces us to a permanent caste position," he said. "It makes us the American untouchables."

New York

Trotter said the President had invited them to submit specific cases of the segregation of governmen workers.

Drunken Cop Said to Have Caused Lynching

Amsterdam News

New York, N.Y.

According to accounts sent to the N. A. A. C. P. here by a member in Marfrance, W. Va., a drunken policeman and a white bootlegger were the cause of the initial disturbance at Leslie, W. Va. which brought about the lynching of two men, Tom Jackson and George Banks, in Greenbrier county on December 11.

12-23-31

The report states that the police officer, accompanied by the bootlegger, caused a fight at a dance hall. Following the fight there was shooting and the officer, Joe Myles, was killed and the bootlegger wounded, dying two days later. It is said two pints of liquor were found on the body of the policeman. The report

states that the shooting, with which
two lynched colored
charged, was actually done by
white

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern.

3382

Salisbury Mob Would Lynch Hoover or Ritchie, Says Pastor

Afro-American

Nobody Safe when Civilization Gets as Low as it is on the Eastern Shore, the Rev. S. L. James Tells Leadenhall Street Congregation, Sunday.

The Rev. S. H. James, minister to Leadenhall Baptist Church, South Baltimore, preached Sunday from the subject, "The Church's Place in the Present World Crisis." Concerning the Salisbury tragedy, he said:

"The awful crime committed by the ring leaders of this insane, bloodthirsty mob, is another black spot on the white pages of America's history that should make the Christian Church, which is supposed to guide the emotions of the people, hide its face in the mantle of eternal shame.

"There are those who say that the President of this nation can stop the mob, but this is not true. The same spirit that drove the mob to commit the crime in Salisbury will drive a mob to tie a rope around President Hoover's neck. 12-19-31

"Some say that Governor Ritchie had the power to stop the mob, but, no, my friends, that self-same heathen force that fired the ring-leader of this mob will fire men and women to hang Governor Ritchie to a limb on a tree.

"Still others say that the Salisbury sheriff and other city and county officials could have prevented this mob, but that is not true, because the same wild emotions that moved this mob will urge a mob to tar and feather every official in Wicomico County.

"This is true because nowhere else, except, perhaps, in solitary confinement, are the voluntary movements of men so limited as they are in the crowd; and the larger the crowd the greater is this limitation, the lower sinks the individual self.

"Intensity of personality is in inverse proportion to the number of aggregated men.

"This law makes it possible for a mob at any time and anywhere, and a mob is no respector of persons. The mob has but one objective, and that is to devour its prey, and the mob will mob all who try to protect its prey.

"State and national officials naturally play in this picture, but if they were and are willing, they could play but a small role. The force that can stop the mob, and the ones responsible to stop the mob, lay in another direction. This problem lays at the door of the Christian church. The church can stop it and the church only is basically responsible for the existence of the mob spirit.

"The church is supposed to evaluate personality, to the extent that each man will see the other man as his brother, and therefore deal with one another as brothers. The church is supposed to make real to humanity, that the red man, the yellow man, the white man and the black, constitute one big family with God as father.

"This will be done when the preacher, who is the visible head of the church, stops looking at his strategic position in society as a bread and butter job, and becomes a preacher of righteousness indeed by living and preaching daily the practical religion of Jesus Christ.

"The church is responsible for this crime, and the Christian preacher most especially. And I am not talking about the black or white preacher, or the black or white church, because the church of the living God is not thus separated. If there is any church at all, we are one in Christ Jesus.

"When we are willing to live and preach the religion of Jesus, then and not until then will such crimes as the one committed on the Eastern Shore be impossible. It is then that there will be a renovating, a reshaping, and resetting of this world of broken-down society, in which men, good, upright, honest men, are reduced to economic slavery.

"It is the preacher as leader of his local congregation, who can correct these wrongs. Jesus gave him the plan and program and to no one else but him. That plan and program is the religion of Jesus, the principles of which are sufficient for all the unhappiness, the inequalities, the woes and the injustices of our present social order.

"The question is being asked: Do we have such preachers? Will they awake to the sense of their power in Christ Jesus, and reset ideals to the extent that we will have a world fit to live in? As the preacher is confronted with mob violence in the country, not only that but a world crisis, if he does not give the world deliverance, deliverance will come from another source.

"'If thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise from another place, but thou and thy father's house will perish and who knoweth whether thou art not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?' These words were spoken by Mordecai to Esther, in the long ago, but they stand today both as a warning and a challenge to the modern preacher and church.

"What will we do about it? Will we preach or will we hold our peace because we are afraid of offending some of our local congregation by telling him what thus saith the Lord?

"We may fail, but deliverance is coming. Far better it is that the church should open men's eyes to misery, injustice and social unfairness than that such information should come from reckless agitators, incipient Bolsheviks, political demagogues, yellow sheets and sensational newspapers.

"The challenge is up to the church. What will we do about it?

"I do wish that every minister who reads this release would write me his personal reaction. Address 638, W. Barre Street, Baltimore, Md."

FRANCE IS FOE OF LYNCHING, SEGREGATION

Baltimore Afro-American

Presidential Aspirant would Ban Color Discrimination.

12/26/31

FOUGHT IT IN U.S. SENATE

Party Can't Get Along without Colored Vote.

Calling attention to the fact that while senator he had introduced a drastic bill which, if it had been adopted, would have put an end to lynching, ex-Senator Jos. I. France, reaffirmed his attitude on mob violence and color discrimination in a letter to the AFRO-AMERICAN this week.

In his letter the ex-Senator, who is an announced candidate for the Presidency of the United States, declared that he is opposed to all unjust discrimination, disfranchisement and segregation directed against any group of our citizens.

Not Changed

"My views," he stated, "have not changed. I believe in a just and equal enforcement of the laws and the preservation of the unalienable rights of all our people. I demanded this on the floor of the United States Senate. If I should be nominated and elected to the Presidency, I would perform a service in promoting the cause of free and popular government and advancing the welfare of all the people.

"I may go further than this and state that I have fully realized that I would not have been elected to the state senate, twice nominated and once elected to the United States Senate without the loyal, intelligent and invaluable support of the thousands of your group in Maryland whom I count as my friends and whose faithful friend I am and desire always to be.

"The Republican party could not function effectively and progressively in our state without the active and intelligent interest of your group so often manifested in our primaries and elections."

Law Enforcement

In an address in the U.S. Senate, made in March, 1920, the then Senator France declared: "We demand the fair and equal enforcement of the law without respect to social circumstances, section, race or color, and hold that it would be intolerable to have Federal spies, agents and officers hounding men for mere words spoken, or for violating statutes to carry out the Eighteenth Amendment in some states, while acts of violence, lynching, murder, resistance of officers of the law and violation of the Fifteenth Amendment is permitted with impunity in other states.

"We demand a constructive policy with reference to the race question, believing it to be both immoral and inexpedient to continue a system which is designed to keep the colored people of certain portions of our country in a condition of ignorance, poverty and degradation, and we hold that to extend to these people, to whom we are under heavy obligation and for whom we have assumed the responsibility, larger opportunities for industrial, vocational, and general education, would be most advantageous."

STRONG FEELING AGAINST LYNCH PROBE ON SHO'

Afro-American

No Action Taken Yet to Find Leaders of Mob.

12/18/31

RESENT CRITICISM

Boycott Against Baltimore Products in Force.

Baltimore, Md.

The Eastern Shore Situation

THE CASE of George Davis, accused of rape was transferred from Chestertown, Md., to Elkton, Md.; also on the Eastern Shore.

THE APPEAL for the removal of the Yuel Lee case from Dorchester County to Baltimore, will be argued before the Maryland Court of Appeals next wek, according to announcement.

THE SALISBURY officials who saw the members of the mob who hanged Matthew Williams, had not been summoned by a grand jury after six days.

GOVERNOR RITCHIE was urged by the Federation of Republican Women of Maryland to drop his campaign for President and stay at home long enough to see that the leaders of the Salisbury mob are prosecuted.

A BOYCOTT against Baltimore newspapers and products was started by the Eastern Shore because of the criticism of that section by the city.

THE 1931 LYNCH total was raised to 15 Thursday, when a mob in Lewisburg, W.Va., took Tom Johnson, 25, and George Banks, 27, from the Greenbrier County jail and hanged them to a telegraph pole.

SALISBURY (Lynch-town), Md.—Progress in the investigation ordered by Governor Ritchie into the lynching of Matthew Williams by a mob here last Friday is moving with snail-like pace as no witnesses have been summoned to date.

State's Attorney Bailey talked with Chief of Police N. H. Holland, of Salisbury, and Deputy Sheriff John Parks, who were guarding the front of the hospital when the mob arrived at the hospital in an effort to fix the identity of those who took part in the lynching.

"I can't remember whether any of the mob threatened me," Holland said. "I remember thinking that if I pulled a gun it might start a riot and other patients in the hospital might get hurt. There were four other Negroes in the ward with Williams and I was afraid the mob might take them, too."

Chief Holland said he followed the mob after it left the hospital and went to the courthouse yard.

"There was no use for me to try to

to anything," he said, "because I was outnumbered too much. There were too many of them for one man to handle."

The chief also said that he did not recognize any of the members of the mob and could not identify them.

Aid Refused

Commissioner Charles D. Gaither, Baltimore police head, said that Baltimore detectives were offered to aid in the lynching investigation "if and when" they are needed either by state or Eastern Shore officials. No request for aid has yet been received by Gaither.

The major witnesses, to be summoned before a coroner's inquest in the death, include:

Police Chief Michael Holland, who remonstrated with mob leaders when they came to take the man from his hospital cot.

Sheriff G. Murray Phillips, who was knocked down and trampled by mob leaders when he attempted to take charge of the dead body after the hanging and before the burning.

Miss Helen V. Wise, superintendent of Peninsula General Hospital, who talked to mob leaders prior to their seizure of the wounded man.

Turnkey M. L. Hays, of the Salisbury jail, who watched the mob activities from the jail yard.

Deputy Don Parks, who aided Chief Holland in trying to protect the victim.

Attorney General Lane, who was instructed by Governor Ritchie to force the prosecution, refused to make any comment concerning his plans.

Judge S. K. White of Salisbury will head the coroner's jury which will conduct the investigation. The sentiment is bitterly against any prosecution of the lynchers.

Some idea of the sentiment of the section can be obtained from the Salisbury Times, which says that a campaign of economic pressure has been started by business houses against Baltimore wholesalers because of criticism directed at the lynching.

Within the last two days, the paper said, orders from Baltimore retailers and wholesalers placed by Salisbury businesses have been canceled to the extent of $148,000. The pressure will be continued, it is asserted, until a public apology is made by Baltimore newspapers and clergymen who criticized the lynching.

The movement to boycott Baltimore business houses has not been confined to Salisbury, according to the paper, but has spread to other towns throughout the section.

A meeting of business men has been called for Saturday night, to perfect an organized system of boycott, with various towns on the peninsula taking part.

One Baltimore newspaper has been taken from the dealers' stands at various towns on the Shore and burned. At Delmar, a little town on the border line between Maryland and Delaware, bundles of papers have been seized from the station platform where they were thrown from trains and burned.

A commercial representative of one Baltimore newspaper today applied to the Salisbury Police Department for a guard to be assigned to the railroad station to protect his consignment when it arrived.

AFROS NOT Affected

A long distance call to Mrs. Sarah Church, AFRO agent at Salisbury, revealed the information that no attempt has been made to prevent the distribution of AFROS in that city as yet.

Mrs. Church stated that her husband had started on his rounds early Friday morning and she had received no report of his having beer molested. Things are apparently quiet in the community at present, she said:

The AFRO's National edition carried a complete investigation of the lynching obtained by a corps of reporters and photographers, dispatched to the scene immediately after reports of the tragedy reached Baltimore. Every angle of the occurrence and its aftermath was fully covered.

To Probe Wages

Action on the Salisbury lynching was taken by the Baltimore Federation of Labor when a resolution was sent to Governor Ritchie urging an investigation of the wages paid on the Eastern Shore. Two alleged murders on the shore have been attributed to low wages.

Lee Appeal Next Week

An appeal for the removal of the case of Yuel Lee from Dorchester County to a court in Baltimore or on the Western Shore will be heard next week at Annapolis.

Change Davis Case

The case of George Davis was changed to Elkton, which is also on the Eastern Shore.

Davis is charged with attempted criminal attack on Mrs. Elizabeth Rusby, 25-year-old farm wife, near Chestertown, Md. Both he and Lee are held in Baltimore City Jail for safekeeping.

R. Mynson Rogers and J. H. B Begg, attorneys, both white, appointed by the court to represent Davis agreed to the change of venue from Chestertown to Elkton. It was ordered by Judge Thomas J. Keating, of Centreville, sitting in Chestertown.

Bernard Ades, attorney for the International Labor Defense, announced that he would file a petition for habeas corpus before Judge Eli Frank demanding permission to interview Davis—"with aim toward stopping the Eastern Shore trial."

Ades, recently reported to have been rejected by Davis as his attorney, said that he received the following letter from Davis:

"Will you please come to see me at once. I wrote you before, but they didn't send the letter out. I want you to take my case please, sir. And come to see me as soon as you can.

"They gave me a state lawyer, and I don't want him."

Lynching to be Test of White Clergy, says the Rev. F. S. King

The Rev. F. S. King, pastor of First Abyssinia Baptist Church, in a sermon to his congregation last Sunday, said:

"I am determined to follow the daily press in order to see what the white ministers have to say about the recent lynching. From this I shall be able to determine, to a large e

tent, the meaning of the white ministry's religion.

"If I find that the white minist is silent, then I shall believe that h religion is vain."

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School Paper Sees No Harm in Mob Act

Defender 1-24-31

Chicago, Ill.

The University of Illinois indorses lynching. It feels that the atrocious burning of Raymond Gunn at Maryville, Mo., was no reflection on American civilization, but rather a justification of it.

It feels quite complacent that a man was tied to the roof of an institution of learning and burned to a crisp while white men, women and children stood about and enjoyed horrible shrieks and groans from the burning victim as the stench of scorching man-flesh and burning human hair made the atmosphere oppressive for miles around!

Situated as it is in the Ku Klux belt of Illinois, the great state instituion has shown a consistent disregard for the welfare of its students who are not white. This attitude is reflected in the fact that dark students there have no place to get a decent meal—that they must eat canned soup and other canned goods in their rooms if they are unfortunate enough not to be able to get a place where they can board. With dozens of restaurants dotting the town, all catering to students, dark boys and girls must pass from one to the other without service, receiving the same curt refusals in each because of their color. Through all this the university does nothing. It takes the attitude that it has no right, morally or legally, to interfere with private property.

Conditions at Urbana, the seat of the university, maintained by taxes of all the citizens of Illinois, are the worst to be found at the seat of any northern university. Not a school in the so-called "Big Ten" conference is as indifferent about the welfare of its dark students as is the University of Illinois.

The Chicago Defender continually complained of these conditions, even before a president was obtained for this school from the southern state of North Carolina. Dr. Chase, present president of the university, was prevailed upon to quit his post as head of the University of North Carolina, where the "Negro" is always the subject of a study but where he cannot attend to help take part in this study. If the university was a southern institution in principle before Dr. Chase arrived, there is little reason to hope that it will be anything else now.

But no one expected to find the Daily Illini making excuses for lynchers and the mob. It seemed to us that the Maryville disgrace was deserving of especial condemnation from all university organs throughout the country because of the desecration of a house dedicated to learning. The school that sees in this affair something to praise, or even condone, is a fit institution for a sweeping investigation. We can expect now to see a group of students blowing up the column in the Memorial stadium because it contains the name of Lieut. Henry Boger, a former student of that institution who was killed in France in the name of democracy. His name on a memorial column and an editorial praising a lynching, do not coincide in any respect. As a matter of fact, they clash.

The editorial which appeared in the Daily Illini, official student publication, follows:

On the Mob Instinct

Despite our claim of being civilized, we are little better than a herd of buffalo that stampedes only to be hurled to destruction over a cliff, or a pack of hungry wolves which when banded together develop courage enough to attack the strongest enemy if the recent lynching of a Negro killer at Maryville, Mo., is to be taken as an example of human behavior among mobs.

Whether our behavior as individuals or as mobs is the more characteristic of human beings is a problem for the sociologists to decide. We are positive that no single individual would have dared to revert to the tactics of our American predecessors, the Indians, by burning the man alive. Yet, such thoughts must have predominated in the mind of each individual of the mob, then, when the mob was assembled, man's true instinct was unleashed to precipitate the disgraceful episode.

What, then, is the advantage of spending many years becoming civilized by acquiring an education if all the alleged culture thus gained is to be overshadowed later in life by the mob instinct? Regardless of the degree of civilization among individuals it will undoubtedly persist. Perhaps in our search for culture we should learn to avoid mobs, then we could feel sophisticated enough to believe ourselves better than animals.

But who is there among us that wouldn't, deep in his instinctive blood, delight in helping to burn at the stake some one who had done a heinous injustice to mankind. How merrily the flames would crackle. How enhancing would be the shrieks and pleadings of the victim, and how soothing the sizzle of human flesh and the aroma of scorching hair.

Perhaps there is something to be learned from the Maryville mob. Becoming discontented with the present system of administering justice, perhaps it undertook to administer some of its own, deemed more expedient, more timely, and less likely of being dodged through some silly technicality of the law. Although the lynching is the subject of criticism, it should not be condemned too severely.

The mob assured itself of the victim's guilt, and feeling reasonably safe from the police or military interference, proceeded to punish the killer for his atrocious crime. Let us not feel alarmed because of the episode. Although it smacks of the mob instinct, it may be considered lightly from the standpoint of civilized creatures inflicting justice without taking a chance of some one else allowing the prisoner to escape punishment. In this respect our civilization has no reflection cast upon it.

INDICT WHITE FOR MURDER

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W. Va., Jan. 23.—John Royer, white, was indicted for the killing of Lon Amos. Amos' body was found with the skull crushed in by a blow from an ax. Royer was seen leaving the cabin where the murder occurred.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE MARYVILLE LYNCHING

Argus 1-23-31

St. Louis, Mo.

The lynching-burning of Raymond Gunn, a Negro, at Maryville recently is history. The ringleaders as well as the participants have gone on their way rejoicing over the fact that NOTHING will be done, so far as the law enforcement machinery of the state is concerned. We, ourselves, are inclined to say forget it as nothing will be done, notwithstanding the gesture from the state capitol that "a thorough investigation will be made." But there are certain facts in connection with this lynching which we think the public, particularly the colored people of the state, should know.

The sheriff of Nodaway County has admitted that he chained the prisoner with a good sized log chain, turned him over to the leaders of the mob, offered little or no resistence, and went home and got into his bed. His part, therefore, in the lynching is very clearly established. The failure of the sheriff to protect the victim from mob violence left the matter in the hands of the state. Governor Caulfield had been warned that there was imminent danger of mob violence. He, as commander-in-chief of the state militia, had the right and power under the laws of the state to forthwith send the military forces of the state to the scene of the anticipated trouble with instruction to suppress mob violence and to prevent it wherever threatened.

The powers of the governor to make use of the military forces of the state in times of riots and mob violence, and for the purpose of suppressing lawlessness, or to prevent the same are found in Section 7374 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919. The pertinent provisions read as follows:

> The governor may call out the national guard or any part of same to execute the laws, to suppress insurrections, repel invasions and suppress lawlessness. And whenever there is in any town, city, or county within this state any condition of lawlessness, tumult, mob, riot, resistance to the laws or process of the state, or any body of men acting together by force with intent to resist or break the laws or to offer violence to persons or property, or imminent danger thereof, he shall thereupon call out the national guard of Missouri, or any part thereof, to execute the laws and repress the same.

It is clear from the foregoing that it is the duty of the governor to execute the laws of the state of Missouri and to suppress lawlessness and afford protection to its citizens from mob violence. The provision, quoted above, says that if there is any condition of lawlessness, tumult, mob, etc., or IMMINENT DANGER THEREOF, he shall call out the national guard, etc. The above language means that there is no reason for the governor to wait until there is a state of lawlessness or until there is a body of men assembled as a mob or acting together with force to break the laws before he calls out the militia. The statutes enacted under the constitutional provision above cited make it his duty to call out the militia and give them instructions to act if there is IMMINENT DANGER of mob violence or riot.

Applying the above principles to the situation which existed at Maryville, Missouri, it is obvious that the governor of Missouri had full power, not only to call out the militia, but to give it instructions to act in any manner necessary to prevent mob violence in that city. The chief question to be determined was whether or not IMMINENT DANGER of mob violence existed in Maryville. If so, it became the duty of the governor to call out the militia and instruct its officers to make the necessary steps to prevent the lynching.

> Section 7374 also provides: Every commissioned officer and enlisted man acting under the orders of the governor, or of any officer, civil or military, authorized by law to call out the national guard or any part thereof as provided in this section shall be upon the same footing as other conservators of the peace under the provisions of the laws of this state.

It is clear from the provision last above quoted that if the governor gave instructions to his adjutant-general to proceed to Maryville and take charge of the militia and prevent a lynching, then the adjutant-general stood on the same footing as the sheriff of Nodaway County or the police of any city or other sub-division of the state where lawlessness is being enacted in their presence. He did not need to wait for a call from the civil authorities of Nodaway County to make use of his company of militia to prevent the lynching. He could have acted on his initiative just the same as the sheriff or marshall might have acted, having been despatched to the scene by his commander-in-chief, the governor of Missouri.

We cite the state statutes in this case to clear up any confusion in the mind of the public as to the powers as well as to the duties of the governor in such a case. If Governor Caulfield did not know his duty in a case of this sort, then he is to blame just the same. Then, too, there is his Adjutant General, A. V. Adams. The law makes him guilty of neglect of duty inasmuch as he could have acted on his own initiative and prevented the lynching which has brought disgrace on the state. The mere fact that the victim was a Negro does not excuse neither he nor the governor in failing to discharge their duties as public officials.

HOW TO BEST MOBS

Chicago Whip

By WILLIAM PICKENS

(For The Associated Negro Press)

Wounded Negro beats Louisiana mob of fifteen hundred whites, who were hell-bent on lynching him. The Negro had killed two of three policemen who were raiding his grocery store. From "between the lines" of the southern newspaper that reports the affair, we can judge that the raid was unjustified and unlawful. The three police did not raid the place as officers of the law, but dressed themselves up in rags and blacked their faces, and went to raid the black man's store as if they were Negro hoodlums. He undoubtedly took them for Negro hoodlums, and defended his place of business, killing two of them and getting wounds himself.

2-7-31

Chicago Whip

He was taken to a hospital, for precarious attention from white doctors and nurses. A mob of one thousand and five hundred "brave" men invaded the hospital wards to get this wounded Negro,—who had done nothing but defend his place of business against an attack by Negro hoodlums (so far as he could see) who were intent on destroying his property. Of course, the white officers had said that they "suspected" him of harboring a gambling business somewhere in his store. They do not report that any evidence justifying their suspicions was found. It was therefore really in the nature of an accident that a Negro proprietor should kill foolish officers, who were passing for vandal-hoodlums of the Negro race. But the mob did not care if it were an accident. They were going into the hospital to get the Negro—and the Negro beat the mob and averted a lynching and burning, all by his lone self: before the mob could reach the hospital ward in which the Negro was confined for treatment, the Negro DIED!

We do not know what the hospital staff had to do with the peritonitis. But this we do know: In a trouble of this kind, in a place of this kind, a Negro of this kind in a hospital of this kind, with doctors and nurses of this kind, has about one chance to live against one hundred chances to die!

Lynchers Move North

Afro-American

Eighty doughty white men, tried and true, donned trusty masks at Schafer, North Dakota, last week, stormed a county jail, snatched Charles Bannon, 22 and white, from a cell and hanged him to a bridge. Bannon had massacred a family of six.

2-7-31

This was North Dakota's twelfth lynching. Previously, one Negro, one Indian, and seven whites had been done to death by mobs. The last previous occurrence was in 1913.

Baltimore, Md

The lynching which rules the South, sometimes shows itself in the North. (North Dakota is on the Canadian border.) The entire state will be shocked, a probe will be instituted and the leaders of the mob ferreted out and punished.

Our prediction is that it will be another eighteen years before the state has another lynching, because the leaders in last week's orgy will be punished. If Dixie states could be relied upon to do the same thing, there would be less mob violence in the South. Because this is so, only a Federal anti-lynching law will make justice safe and real in the lynching belt.

C. E. DICKINSON SAYS MOB COWED AT BUCYRUS, O.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—A thorough investigation of the situation in Bucyrus, county seat of Crawford County in Ohia, where mob violence was threatened against Negroes, shows that the situation is now thoroughly in hand and the mob is cowed, according to report sent to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by C. E. Dickinson, President of the Ohio Conferenc eofN AACP Branches.

Md. Dickinson, who went to the scene of the trouble, reports that the threats of violence came from citizens of the nearby town of Crestli where a sheriff was killed, and adds, "The threat of violonce came almost entirely from Crestline citizens, who followed the Sheriff and prisoners from Crestline, where the murder of the Sheriff occurred. The Crawford County officials have the license numbers of many cars and names of the agitators. Machine guns are mounte to take care of any eventuality.

2-14-31

"The Deputy Sheriff who took charge after the Sheriff's eath I am told, said to the populace: 'You will molest the prisoners only after my death, and I am going to see to it that some of you precede me if you attempt to start something. I am going to shoot into any group of five people that Isee withing a square of the Court House.'"

Baltimore

The trouble, it is reported, arose through the arrest of some Negroes charged with stealing chickens, in the pursuit of whom a sheriff was shot and killed. The shooting was followed by mob agitation, the colored people of Crestline being ordered off the streets and their homes searched for arms by the police.

"A Negro minister proved the real hero of the day," reports Mr. Dickinson. "Despite orders of the police to keep off the street he went to the Mayor's office through a group of hoodlums and over the Mayor's telephone aske the Governor to send troops. There is no need for worry about conditions in Bucyrus, Ohio, as the authorities have impressed the hoodlums in and out of the city that the majesty of the law will be upheld.

"In Crestline there are grave possibilities in the city but since the Governor has ordered a company in Manfield and one in Bucyrus to be ready to move at the first indication of trouble, I don't think any trouble will occur."

One of the colored prisoners was shot while trying to escape "and his death was probably justifiable" reports Mr. Dickinson. "The three prisoners were being held for questioning in the home of the Sheriff which adjoins the county jail. Doubtless, they were being put thru the third degree to force them to tell who was the trigger man. When the officers went into another room to write out a confession which the prisoners were expecter to sign Elijah (Ralls) jumped through the window. Detectives and police who had the jail and Sheriff's home surrounded in order to keep the crowd back immediately began firing."

Mr. Dickinson is urging that the Governor discipline the Mayor of Crestline for disarming the Negro citizens while not searching the homes of white citizens for arms leaving the Negroes at the mercy of a mob.

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FACES ABOUT ON LYNCHING

More persons were saved last year from mobs bent upon lynching than were killed by them. Sixty persons were saved in the forty instances where officers outwitted the lynchers. While the number slain was eleven more than in 1929, the saved also were more. Extra lawlessness was met by extra vigilance. Call

When business conditions are taken into consideration, the effect of which in some countries has been revolution, the lynching record of the United States in 1930 is not so gloomy. It might even be called satisfactory, because of the increasing activity of officials in thwarting the mob. 2-9-31

One must bear in mind at all times that officials, especially enforcement officers like police and sheriffs, represent the majority opinion. So long as communities were eager to lynch, officers gave up their prisoners. Now when only a few want their hands dipped in blood, the officers sternly bid them begone. The change in sentiment needs no stronger proof.

Kansas City Mo.

LYNCHING-BURNING AT MARYVILLE

The crime alleged to have been committed by Raymond Gunn a Negro. at Maryville about a month ago when he was accused of clubbing a young school teacher to death was outdone a few days ago when three thousand white people staged a lynching-burning in the same town.

Argus

The crime of which Gunn was accused was horrible. It was revolting in its nature. No punishment within the law would be too severe in a case of that sort. But even if the crime of which Gunn was accused had been proven on him, there would have been no justification for the action of the mob in the lynching-burning frolic.

1-16-31

In this case one Negro was accused of murder. The state demanded life for life. There isn't the slightest doubt but that the accused would have been hanged within a short time if found guilty. The state would have demanded his life as a protection to society but, now there are, at least, possibly one thousand murderers at large in the state, particularly in Nodaway County. In this number there are, no doubt, some state officials who aided, abetted, and otherwise assisted the mob. Their crime is worse than that of the accused. A stigma of the foulest sort is placed upon the state. It is far reaching in its affect upon the public. Before the world, the state officials, from the governor on down, are charged with at least a dereliction of duty. Of course, these officials will issue public statements padded with alibis. But facts are facts. It will be easy for the governor of the state to say. "I did my duty." It will be easy for Adj. Gen. A. V. Adams in charge of the militia to say, "I did mine." It will also be easy for Sheriff Harve England to say. "I was powerless." And so we see that no one is willing to admit that he did not do his duty as a public official. But the public, even those who were in sympathy with the mob, knows better.

St. Louis, Mo.

Then, too, the state is affected by the fact that thousands of young men, women, and children took part in this lynching and murder. Women with babes in their arms and expectant mothers were there too. This, we say, was a crime upon society for which somebody must pay and pay dearly. We don't believe that children tender in years can see such as a human being burned and hear the cries and groans of agony as came from the victim at Maryville without being badly affected. We do not believe that an expectant mother can look upon such a crime without it affecting the unborn child. When we take into consideration these things, we can't but say that the state was greatly outraged, and that the crime of Raymond Gunn was outdone a thousand times through the action of the mob.

Of course, everybody knows that the lynching could not have been actually carried out as it was without the active or inactive assitance of Sheriff England. The leaders knew then and know now that nothing would be done to them or either of them for the part which they took in the lynching. According to the sheriff's own statement as reported in the newspapers, he and his deputies gave up their prisoner, and he, himself, went home and went to bed.

Under those circumstances, it is reasonable to presume that he volunteerly turned Gunn over to the leaders of the mob, went home, jumped into bed, and covering his head and ears played the part of the story, "Nero fiddles while Rome burns."

The acts on the part of the Sheriff in this case absolutely show that he is not fit for the office. He has wilfully neglected his sworn duty, and everybody knows it. The alibi offered by Adj. Gen. Adams who was in charge of the militia just a short distance from the scene of the lynching, to say the least, is highly, "technical." But such technicalities will not excuse him.

Finally, it's up to the governor of the state to take officia action to see to it that the officers of the state give an accounting to the people. The mere fact that the victim was a Negro should make no difference. The state and society have been wronged a thousand times worse by three thousand people than it possibly could have been by one lone Negro: It will be far better for the governor of the state to go after this matter fearlessly and courageously than for him to use his official position to justify and to make excuses for those who have neglected their duty. Even those whom he may defend may for the time be glad, but they, themselves, will have less respect for the governor in the future.

Then, too, there is Attorney General Stratton Shartel, a young man with ambition and a bright future. We have noted that he has been active in this case in helping to gather evidence which might help convict the accused. We wonder what he is going to do about taking action against these officials who have shirked their duties, and what he will do about the three thousand lynchers and mob murderers in Nodaway County. So far as we can see, he has shown no courage nor special fitness for even his present office by joining with the crowds (mobs), for that is easy for anybody to do by anyone. But in this case, he has the opportunity to show his courage and to show the kind of stuff of which he is made by getting some results, not a whole lot of words and alibis but results. The people of the state will, in the long run of things, think a great deal more of his ability and fitness as a public official if he will make a real honest-to-goodness effort. They are not his true friends, and they do him wrong who advise him to do less than his full duty in this case.

Gunn's Mother Sighs for Chance To Search Ruins; Slain Girl's Family Wants More Lynchings

Call 1-16-31
Kansas City Mo.

Tuesday afternoon in a silent and sorrowing family circle, the mother of Raymond Gunn talked now and then, over the space of an hour, about her boy and the mob which burned him alive in Maryville, Mo., Monday morning.

The Gunn family is at an address in Kansas which it would rather not make public.

Up at Maryville, the family of Miss Velma Colter, 19-year-old white school teacher, who was murdered December 16, was still thirsting for blood. The father and brother of the dead girl had stood in the mob of persons and watched Raymond Gunn chained to an oil soaked school house and roast alive. Yet they were not satisfied.

Want Double Lynching

"Justice hain't been done yet," is what a friend of the family, speaking for the Colters, told a reporter Tuesday. The dead girl's family wants the blood of Ted Gunn and Paul "Shike" Smith. They want another lynching—a double lynching would please them better.

But not so the quiet-spoken brownskin woman who is the mother of Gunn. She does not talk of vengeance. Maybe she wants a lot of things she didn't mention, because she did not talk a great deal. Not many mothers would be able to talk much if they picked up newspapers and read how their son had been chained, even as Nero chained the Christians, and roasted by a mob of 5,000 persons.

"I am certain Raymond never confessed to that crime," she said. "I just can't believe it. The police may have beaten him and made him sign something, but I'll never believe he confessed of his own free will.

Would Like to Bury Ashes

"Oh, I wish I could go back there and search around. There might be something left that I could bury as a body should be buried. There isn't much chance of that. I expect they might shoot me down in his ashes."

But there was no hatred in her voice. The mob was wrong. Havre

England (the sheriff) was wrong. He had promised her her boy would have protection.

"Just after Raymond was arrested, I went to the authorities and said to them: 'See here. Raymond is charged with a serious crime. This is a life and death matter. Will he get protection so that he can get a fair trial in the courts?' And they promised me he would.

"It would be bad enough if he had been tried, found guilty and hanged," she went on, "but he never had a trial. I cannot believe he confessed to the crime."

After a bit she told how Raymond had felt on the night the girl's body was found.

"Raymond said: 'I sure am glad I wasn't hunting in that section around the school house today, because if I had been anywhere near there I would have hopped a freight. They would try to get me for it sure.'

"My son did not try to hide. He did not run away. I am sorry for the girl's family, but I don't believe my son committed this horrible crime."

No Cry for Revenge

Mrs. Gunn told how the officers had searched the house thoroughly looking for bloody clothing, but finding none. She said they asked permission of a white neighbor to search an outhouse, but also failed to find any bloody clothing. Gunn was a hunter and trapper and much rabbit blood was found on his clothes. [illegible] Mrs. Gunn says, some human blood was supposed to have been found on Gunn's sweater shirt.

She talked on and then quieted down. Then another thought. But never a hateful word. Never a cry for revenge on the mob that had killed her boy. Once she raised her head proudly:

"If Harve England couldn't protect my boy, he should have given him a gun, there might have been a different story. Raymond wasn't a fighter, but he wasn't afraid and he could shoot."

And while she talked quietly, up in Maryville another family circle was gathered and in the Maryville home the talk was of more blood, more killing, more roasting of live men....

ST. JOE CITIZENS WARNED GOVERNOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY OF MOB

1-4-31 Carrier

◆

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Governor Henry S. Caulfield was warned Saturday night and again on Sunday that a mob at Maryville intended to lynch Raymond Gunn, by a committee of colored citizens headed by the Rev. J. W. Gordon.

The committee has made public its telegram sent to the state's chief executive Sunday morning.

Governor Caulfield was called out of bed Saturday night between ten and eleven o'clock by a long distance call from the St. Joseph committee which told him it had positive information from a leading white business man of Maryville that a lynching would take place.

Although this positive information was in the hands of the governor, warning him that local authorities at Maryville were planning to help the mob, fully twenty-four hours before Gunn was to go to trial, still the local authorities were allowed to hand Gunn over to the lynchers.

The Telegram:

His Excellency Gov. Henry S. Caulfield,
Jefferson City:

This telegram is calling your attention to a grave situation existing because of the accusation against Raymond Gunn (stop) accused of murdering white school teacher of Maryville, Missouri (stop) Gunn was removed from Maryville to Kansas City for safety (stop) Sunday or Monday January 11 or 12 Gunn will be taken to Maryville for trial (stop) The intense feeling and grave situation demand ample provision be made by you such as militia to protect Gunn, his lawyer and even the sheriff who is to take Gunn back to Maryville and return him to Kansas City (stop) It will require the strongest possible force to prevent mob violence (stop)

Governor Caulfield we appeal to you during these critical days to use your potent resources to prevent mob violence which is openly shown in this case (stop)

A letter signed by the entire committee sent to the governor Wednesday reviewing the situation before and after the lynching contains the paragraphs:

"Before calling your attention to this matter, Gov. Caulfield, we had the facts first hand from one of the business, social and political white leaders of Maryville. We had also talked with the sheriff, Harve England. We recognized in our conversation with him that he had no definite plans made for the purpose of protecting the person of Raymond Gunn from any form of mob, be it small or large. In fact, he manifested no interest in the affair.

"We talked with you over telephone Saturday night and crystallized that talk with telegram the next morning in order that you might have ample time to place well prepared militia on the ground and not depend upon the local militia because of elements who were inclined to sympathize with the mob in carrying out lawlessness.

"We are compelled to feel that the local and state officials idly standing by brought to your administration and stigmatized with extreme lawlessness the most outrageous, heinous, inhuman perpetration of mob violence ever enacted in the State of Missouri with a helpless, defenseless human. Maryville and Nodaway County should be wiped from the sisterhood of this state.

"There can be no excuse on the part of state and local officials in the face of previous warnings to allow any number of men representing a mob to burn a human being alive as Gunn was burned Monday.

"Sheriff Harve England knows as he stated in the Press the leaders of the mob. He made no effort to obtain assistance to disperse the mob, but willingly turned the prisoner over to the mob. We demand that he and his deputies be discharged and tried for criminal neglect and that Nodaway County should be forced to pay an exceedingly large damage to the relatives of Gunn who was burned alive.

"That amazing Adjt. Gen. A. V. Adams who took to cover with the local militia and remained until an hour or two after they had walked Gunn three or four miles barefooted and, burned him—that general should have his stripes removed and never be recognized in military circles.

"If we were asked to name which state of the Union that has given birth to the most dastardly, inhuman, cowardly form of mob violence, we would pass up all of the barbarous countries of the world and travel through the southern states where mob violence originated and name this "show-me" State of Missouri which has shown herself to be the lowest in the act of mob violence.

"The denizens of the forest, the birds of the air under our game laws have a closed season in which no one may kill a deer or a partridge without punishment, but there is no closed season for the Negro.

"And yet the national and state governments want the Negro to continue to sing "My County 'Tis of Thee Sweet Land of Liberty!"

"Governor Henry S. Caulfield, the colored citizens of this state and the self respecting citizens of all races demand a sweeping, unvarnished, complete investigation of this case.

"Respectfully—Rev. J. W. Gordon, chairman; Rev. A. Sims, secretary; Rev. W. H. Hill, Rev. C. P. Morrow, Rev. B. R. Monroe, Rev. R. O. Johnson, Rev. J. A. Chandley, Rev. C. S. Webster, Mr. Charles Johnson, Dr. E. W. Thompson, Dr. J. R. A. Crossland, Mr. U. S. Jones, Rev. D. J. Brown."

PUBLISHES N.A.A.C.P. LYNCH FIGURES

Courier
1-31-31
Pittsburgh Pa

NEW YORK, Jan. 29—The Manchester Guardian, one of the leading daily newspapers in Great Britain, devotes almost half a column to a dispatch from New York containing the lynching figures for 1930 made public by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

MISSISSIPPI WOMEN MOBOLIZE AGAINST THE MOB

2-14-31
New York N.Y.

Brand Lynching And Urge South To End It

Jackson, Miss.—Branding lynching as "a crime which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianity and undermines our government," and pledging themselves to do all in their power to eradicate it, two groups of prominent Mississippi women last week joined the Southwide movement recently inaugurated by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation to enlist the women of the South in a fresh offensive against mob violence.

In the two Misssisipi meetings, held on successive days at Clarksdale and Jackson, more than fifty outstanding women participated in person or by proxy, and the expectation was expressed that not less than 2,000 Mississippi women would be enlsited in the movement before the end of the year.

Among the lines of effort to be carried on by the women in their campaign will be those of creating public opinion, educating the youth in law and order, upholding officers in their efforts to enforce the law, and calling upon the press the pulpit and school, and upon every patriotic citizen to join in the campaign." The action of these women was the occasion of wide and editorial comment and endorsement throughout the state.

The Southwide movement against lynching, with which the Mississippi women have allied themselves, was inaugurated at a meeting of twenty representative women in Atlanta on November 1. Called together by the Interracial Commission to consider the distressing lynching record of 1930, these women determined upon a fresh offensive against this crime. included the organization of a The plan formulated by this group strong women's committee in each of the Southern states to lead in a program of education and action along all possible lines for the eradication of mob violence.

In pursuance of that plan state groups have already been organized in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi and similar committees are to be set up in other states as quickly as possible. The work of organization is headed by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, the Commission's Director of Women's ~~Activities, with~~ headquarters in Atlanta.

Lynchings - 1931 & Discussions.

Negro Press. (Northern.)

3385

What the Papers Say About the Maryville Mob

Call 1-23-31

THE AMERICAN MOB

Pittsburgh Courier. Kansas City

Again the American mob has taken the stage. In a little town out in Missouri, known as Maryville, a mob of three thousand white men and women and some children is reported to have burned to death a Negro charged with assault upon a white teacher. The mob is reported to have taken the Negro to the very schoolhouse where the teacher taught the little American children, and there burned the Negro to death and reduced the schoolhouse to ashes.

We do not know how any mob could express itself in terms of greater torture and destruction. Fire is an all-consuming agency—it leaves nothing in its wake. We take it that the American mob , in resorting to fire, has employed about the last means of destruction known to human ingenuity. We take it now that the modern method of lynching is by fire, until some more torturing method can be discovered.

The burning of this Negro at Maryville, Mo., and the destruction of the schoolhouse recall a similar incident which happened in the state of Texas not many months since. There a courthouse was destroyed by fire in order to appease the wrath of an American mob.

We do not know what estimate to place upon American civilization when it can produce mobs which defy the law and destroy two of the high symbols of civilization, viz: a courthouse and a schoolhouse. The destruction of these two institutions clearly indicates that America is degenerating. We say America is degenerating because the mob is a part of American agencies of race hatred. The mob is allowed to express American contempt and the mob is permitted to resort to fire as a suitable means of torture and destruction. America expresses its race hatred and colorphobia through the agency of the mob run mad with fire. If our courthouse is to be destroyed by the mob and the action of the mob condoned; if our schoolhouses are to be burned down by the mob and the action of the mob entirely ignored, if not altogether approved; if these symbols of civilization are to become the prey of the American mob and nothing is to be done about it, then America stands indicted as contributing to the destruction of her own symbols of civilization. Needless to say the nation is headed to ruin, and its leader is the mob, sanctioned and condoned.

We hold no brief for any Negro who commits crime. We hold no brief for any white man who commits crime. Our institutions were created and sanctioned for the purpose of protecting the civilization the forefathers of this country attempted to establish. There is a well defined and accepted method of punishing criminals. Courthouses have long since been accepted as the place where justice is meted out, and the public has been taught to await orderly procedure by our courts. Our courthouses have been set up as symbols of intelligence and civilization, and the public has been taught to look to the schoolroom as the cradle of civilization. But in these United States of America, with a government sufficiently equipped to cope with wars at home and abroad, the mob is permitted to destroy our courthouses and to burn down our schoolhouses with no other excuse than that a Negro allegedly committed murder.

There are types of American white people who will say that we can afford to lose a courthouse and a schoolhouse because we have sufficient wealth to replace them; and there are Negroes who can say, if we choose, that we can afford to contribute a worthless criminal Negro to a pease the American mob and replace him w another worthless criminal Negro. But such a missions as these contribute nothing toward t correction of evil. It is not the building nor th intrinsic value of the building that counts— is what the building symbolizes that count Likewise, it is not the worthless criminal Ne gro, burned at the stake, that counts—it is wha human life symbolizes that counts. It will nc be long before the American mob will be burning white men and white women, but it wil be a long, long time before the world will believe that the American civilization is sincer and sound.

Our white people of this country who profess to be highly religious; who desire to be called Christian, and who boast of the wealth of the world, may find a degree of satisfaction in giving ample and sufficient trial to a Dr. Snook in Ohio and burning a Raymond Gunn in Missouri, but they can find little satisfaction in knowing that they are teaching the children of today, who will be the men of tomorrow, that our court houses represent nothing but brick and mortar and that our schoolhouses symbolize so much fagot. In short, our Christianity is a lie and our civilization a sham.

* * *

THE SHERIFF WAS AFRAID OF HURTING SOMEBODY

Galveston (Tex). Daily News.

Missouri contributes the first lynching for 1931 and it is one calculated to lend point to arguments for the federal anti-lynching bill introduced in congress several years ago by Representative Dyer of that state. Local police officers might have, been able to prevent the burning of a Negro at Maryville, Mo., Monday, but unless news dispatches are wide of the facts it is plain that their efforts to prevent the crime were less energetic than fidelity to their duty required. At this distance the case bears all the evidence of a weak surrender to the mob spirit.

According to the Kansas City paper's story, the sheriff said he did not call the guardsmen because he was "afraid they would get out on the streets with those guns and hurt somebody."

Law enforcement officers who are afraid of hurting somebody are the lynchers' best friend. Usually these officers are more afraid of hurting their political prospects than of shedding blood in defense of the law they are sworn to uphold. We may rest assured, however, that if the states where lynchings occur remain indifferent to them the federal government will not. Since local officers are apathetic in the Maryvill case, it devolves upon the governor of Missouri to make amends for their delinquency. He should have the lynching thoroughly investigated and institute proceedings to have the derelict officers removed.

* * *

MOB VIES WITH VICTIM IN RETURN TO SAVAGERY

San Francisco Chronicle (Daily).

The horrible savagery which burned a Negro to death at Maryville, Mo., was left totally without excuse if, as the mob leaders say, the victim confessed his crime before his death. With confession there could have been no doubt about a prompt disposal of his case by the orderly processes of the law. Nothing was in the way of justice.

But mobs rarely seek justice. The Maryville mob was bent on venting its own passion for vengeance. That the people of the district were deeply stirred by the mistreatment of a young white woman, culminating in her murder, is easily understood. But that the horrors of that crime could be blotted out or allayed by the mad exhibition of brutal torture of the suspected man is not to be explained by any appeal to civilized principles.

The action of the mob was as definitely a return to elemental savagery as was the murder for which vengeance was wreaked on the Negro. His was a personal crime. The mob's was a community crime and as such is a blot on the State of Missouri and on the good name of the American people.

* * *

HIT 'EM ON THE POCKET NERVE

Milwaukee Leader. (Daily).

Twenty-five persons were lynched in the United States in the year 1930. All but one were Negroes. Seven of these barbarities occurred in the state of Georgia, which therefore gets the prize as the state nearest to savagery. Alabama and Tennessee had four apiece, Mississippi three, Indiana and South Carolina two each, Florida, North Caroline and Oklahoma one each.

The 1930 increase will revive the demand for a federal law on the subject. Uncle Sam has been shamefully negligent all these years. He should have taken a hand in the matter several decades ago. So long as there is as many as one lynching per year, it is his duty to do so.

Anti-lynching bills usually contain provisions whereby a fine would be levied against any county in which a lynching occurs. This is probably the best way to get at it. You can't reason with savages, but they don't like to pay taxes any better than the next man. Slap on a large fine which will make the citizens of the county come across with a big tax payment. That will hit them on the pocket nerve and will most likely be more effective than any other method. It will not only reach the actual members of the mobs, but it will line up those citizens who have hitherto kept their hands off. And the larger taxpayers will inject some backbone into the law enforcement officers who have been in the habit of letting mobs do as they please.

* * *

MISSOURI'S DISGRACE

Minneapolis Journal (Daily).

The town of Maryville disgraced itself Monday by burning alive the Negro who had murdered a young woman school teacher. The State of Missouri disgraced itself Monday when it failed to save the murderer from the Maryville mob.

Let it be granted that sex murder is a horrible crime, deserving of death. Missouri has a law permitting the death penalty, not only for sex murder, but also for rape that does not result in murder. Missouri courts and juries customarily inflict this penalty. Missouri almost invariably hangs for simple rape, when the offender has a black skin.

The victim of the Maryville mob was on his way to court to plead guilty when he was forcibly taken from a sheriff who seems not to have over-exerted himself in defense of his prisoner. The Negro was taken to his doom almost before the eyes of state militiamen sent to Maryville specifically to protect him.

And that is Maryville's disgrace and Missouri's disgrace. Here was a brute who would have been put to death on the scaffold, if the mob had not interfered. Justice would have been served. Society would have been avenged. The deterrent effect upon other potential murderers would have been as great. But the Maryville mob had to have its Roman holiday. And the State of Missouri made only the feeblest of efforts to prevent it.

Always inexcusable, lynching is particularly inexcusable when the due processes of law are already in motion to take legally the prisoner's life. The year 1930 had a bad lynching record, as contrasted with other recent years, its total being more than double that of 1929, though still far below the totals of only two or three decades ago. The year 1931 gets a bad start at Maryville.

* * *

AMERICANS BURN ANOTHER NEGRO

Houston Informer.

While we prate about law observance and the flagrant violations of the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act, and while citizens of color are still disfranchised purely on account of race, proud Americans up in Missouri lead another helpless, handcuffed Negro away from the court house, tie him to the top of a frame school house, soak him in gasolene, apply the torch, and burn him at the stake.

The pity of it, aside from the taking of a man's life in such a frenzy of barbarism without a trial and without due process of law, is the apparent belief in America that only the victim and the Negro race will suffer from the perpetuation of lynching. The idea seems to prevail that women and children can stand by and enjoy a lynching ceremony without the future of America being in anywise jeopardized. It is the old idea of the moth and the flame, that we can play with fire and not be burned. that we can wallow in the mire and remain spotless.

Lynching must be stopped, and that soon, if America would preserve its civilization. The states have proven again and again and over a long period of time that they cannot stop it. If the testimony of the law enforcement officers at Maryville, Missouri, is any criterion, it does not seem that the states want to stop it. The time has come when the strong arm of the Federal government must assert itself and put down this relic of barbarism, or else this relic will one day rise up and destroy the nation.

Governor Asks Stronger Laws Against Mobs

Courier

1-31-31

Pittsburgh, Pa

Retiring South Carolina Executive Condemns Mob Violence—Holds Sheriff Blameworthy.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 29—Denunciation of lynching and a request for laws giving additional protection to prisoners featured the final message to the legislature of Hon. G. Richards, who has just retired from the governorship of South Carolina. This recommendation, it is pointed out, is entirely consistent with Governor Richards' well-known and vigorous opposition to mob violence.

Deeply deploring the two lynchings which took place in the state during his administration, the governor pointed out weaknesses needing correction both in the existing laws applying to such crimes and in their administration. In each of these cases he laid upon the sheriff a share of the blame, though in differing degree. On this point Governor Richards said:

"In Oconee county the sheriff was wounded in defending his prisoner and is to be commended for his bravery, but he was remiss in that he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety.

"The Union county lynching is another story. In this case the sheriff cannot escape his responsibility. He did not appeal to nor notify the governor his prisoner was in danger. There is evidence that the sheriff was present when the lynching took place, and although it was bright daylight and the lynchers were not disguised, he testified at the coroner's inquest he did not know any of them."

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Governor Asks More Stiff Anti-Mob Laws

Negro World

1-7-31

Retiring South Carolina Executive Condemns Mob Violence—Holds Sheriffs Blameworthy

New York, N.Y.

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S. CAROLINA TO OPEN WAR ON MOB LAW

Defender

1-31-31

Chicago, Ill

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~~MISSOURI MOB SEEKS ANOTHER VICTIM AS PROBE GETS UNDER WAY~~

Courier 1-24-31

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Governor Caulfield Requests Report As Resolution Condemning Lynching Is Voted Down by House of Representatives—Colored Radio Singer, Said to Have Been Implicated by Lynched Man, Reported to Be "On the Spot."

MARYVILLE, Mo., January 22—(ANP)—As Governor Caulfield's investigation of the lynching of Raymond Gunn here Monday got under way, reports were rampant that the lust for blood on the part of the mob had not yet been satisfied, and that one Paul (Shike) Smith was being sought.

These reports stated that when Gunn was forced to repeat his confession before he was burned to death on top of the schoolhouse, in which he is supposed to have raped and murdered Velmer Colter, a white school teacher, he is alleged to have said that Smith, a radio singer, also was connected with the crime.

Open shouts were made as his body was being consumed by members of the maniacal mob, "We want 'Shike' Smith!" and now the county and state are being scoured in search of Smith, and it is readily admitted and believed that unless some determined effort on the part of the law enforcement officers is made, if captured, Missouri will add one more lynching to its record and hold the lead in the lynching league.

Governor Requests Report

Governor Caulfield inquired as to why the National Guard, which had been mobilized, did not rush to the aid of the officers in whose custody Gunn had been placed, and was informed by Adjt.-Gen N. V. Adams, who was in charge of the troops, that it had been agreed that the troops would remain at the armory until called out by the sheriff. The sheriff did not call and the troops kept the agreement.

Explaining why he did not call for troops, Sheriff Harve England who has passed his sixty-third birthday anniversary, according to report, said:

"I didn't want to aggravate that mob. I had heard about those Guardsmen with their popguns, and I was afraid that they would get out on the streets with those guns and hurt somebody."

Law-Makers Refuse to Condemn Act

That the law-makers of the state evidently felt that the mob was justified was indicated when a resolution presented by Rep. Bourke, condemning the lynching and the negligence on the part of the officers, was voted down in the House of Representatives.

When Rep. Job of Nodaway county, in which the lynching occurred, spoke against the resolution he was loudly applauded and a few minutes later the applause took the form of votes against the resolution.

It is, however, believed that determined efforts will be made to pass an anti-lynching law. Such a law has been framed by ex-Rep. L. A. Knox and forwarded to Rep. Bourke for introduction.

With the friends of the Colter family crying for the lynching of another victim, Mrs. Gunn, the mother of the murdered boy, is not seeking vengeance, but only wanted an opportunity to search the ruins in the hope that she might find some ashes of her boy which she could bury. Fear of being killed by members of the mob, however, has prevented her from making this search.

Since the lynching many reports have been circulated to the effect that young Gunn has never confessed that he raped and killed the white woman, but that he said he was a party to the crime. Another, that an unidentified white man in Kansas City told two Negro companions that a white man committed the crime and that he knew him, and still another, that Gunn was innocent. Withal, Raymond Gunn has been lynched and his lynchers are yet at large, roaming the streets in quest of other victims.

Lynchings-1931 & Discussions.

Negro Press, (Northern.) 6

3386

What Other Papers Say

Kansas Call

THE MISSOURI LYNCHING

Norfolk Journal and Guide.

The lynching at Maryville, Missouri, was different from the average in two particulars which are deserving of special notice: the complete lack of resistance to the mob on the part of the sheriff and his deputies, even with a company of militia at his disposal; and the selection of a school house as the place for roasting alive the victim of its fury. The first particular may be explained by collusion between the sheriff, the militia and the mob, but it is hard to understand why a mob, even in its fury aroused by the criminal assault and murder of a school teacher should wish to destroy a school house, as the mob did when it fastened the man to the roof and set the building on fire. This action only serves to confirm the insanity of mobs. The action of the Missouri mob corresponds with that of the Sherman, Texas, mob which last year burned down a $50,000 court house in the course of a lynching. One destroyed the symbol of law and justice, the other the symbol of education, two of the cardinal instruments for the orderly processes of government. But the mob cares nothing for orderly processes of government. The mob is anarchy at work.

1-30-31

Kansas City, Mo

The sheriff involved in Missouri presents a study in county law enforcement. If there is no law or public opinion in Missouri that will call for a rigid investigation of this sheriff's action, then Missouri, which has had 90 lynchings in the last 40 years, needs to have the public opinion of the nation focused upon it. The Maryville affair will no doubt attract the immediate and earnest attention of the Southern Lynching Commission headed by George Fort Milton of Tennessee. It is good clinical material for the commission.

Despite the peculiar atrocity of the Missouri lynching, first of the year 1931, the situation is far from hopeless and there is every reason to feel that the day is not far distant when lynchings will cease entirely. In spite of last year's spectacular record there is a distinct improvement. A generation ago there was a lynching for nearly every day in the year. In 1922 there were 57, in 1923 there were 33, then in 1924 the number dropped to 16. Since that year the number has fluctuated under 30, dropping in 1929 to 11, but rising in 1930 to 23. But there is every indication that sentiment in the country is stronger now against lynching than it has ever been, and the Missouri affair, one of the worst in history, will serve to crystallize still more righteous indignation and shame.

THE MOB AT MARYVILLE

Houston Post Dispatch (Daily)

To Missouri goes the unenviable distinction of staging the first lynching of the year. And in heading up the new year's record of mob violence, what a picture of lawlessness Maryville presented. Apparently, almost the whole town turned out—men, women and children—to witness the burning to death of the Negro victim, after he had been dragged for three miles to a school house and tied to the roof of the building, which was then set on fire. Maryville is a college town, seat of a state normal, but it seems, that in a cultured community now and then there can be a reversion to barbarism quite as pronounced as in more backward communities. Maryville is far up in North Missouri, far removed from what some are pleased to refer to as "the lynching belt." Authors of claims that Negroes migrate from the South because of fear of lynching will no doubt take notice of the geographical location of Maryville, a small city up in Northern territory where there are loud professions of particular friendship for the colored race. The Maryville mob was guilty of a three-fold offense, namely, anarchy, murder and arson. It defied constituted authority and took the law into its own hands; it took a human life without sanction of law, and it burned public property needlessly and lawlessly. If there could be a clearer example of contempt for law than the people of this Missouri town exhibited on this occasion, it would be difficult to find it. However, there was no lack of provocation. This prisoner who was burned had been convicted of a similar crime previously and inadequately punished. Improper functioning of the law in the first place laid the predicate for a later spectacular outbreak of lawlessness.

GLORYFYING UNCLE TOM NEGROES

Florida Sentinel.

When a Negro died recently, whose best years had been spent shining shoes of police officers, currying horses for the city and in general bowing, cringing and pimping in the service of whites, his death was the signal for sobbing eulogies from the white press.

This Negro contributed nothing to the progress of his race and the white press knew it He was at his best an Uncle Tom whose greatest pleasure consisted in hanging around white people. Yet he was hailed on the front page as if he had been the greatest Negro in America

What a great contrast when a worthwhile Negro dies! His contributions to racial and community progress may be outstanding, his achievements notable, but his death is relegated to the back pages and he goes to his grave unsung in the white press.

The contrast is very interesting but intelligent Negroes are not fooled by it. They know that it is the white man's subtle method of glorifying the Uncle Tom Negro and cleverly trying to tell us that this is a most desirable type But even the white man despises the Uncle Tom Negro, though he accepts the bowing and the cringing as inevitable results from ignorance When it comes to lending his money, and entrusting his confidence, the white man dodges them and looks for men with intelligence, ability, sincerity and honesty, men who stand for something in the community life.

FOR RACIAL FRIENDLINESS

Dallas Morning News.

Had you ever given much thought to Boy Scout work for Negroes? If a Boy Scout troop is good for a white lad, why should not something of the sort be good for a black one? The Texas Interracial Commission turned the thought over and found it good. It organized seven Boy Scout troops last year for Negroes only.

Schools and colleges have courses on sociology; why not one on the problem of the two races here in this country? The commission saw only one answer to that, too, so it approached the institutions of the State on the point. They got excellent cooperation. No school turned it down, it seems.

Chambers of commerce were encouraged to appoint committees of their own for fostering better relations between white folks and colored folks. About twenty-five such committees have been recorded in the headquarters records of the commission. Representatives of the latter arranged for sermons on fair treatment of Negroes in an area served by the subdivision of one white religious denomination. The area was pretty thoroughly covered. The commission reports that in that area not a single lynching occurred although 1930 was a bad year for the number of lynchings.

There are other noteworthy features in the report for the year just closed, but these items are enough to justify the existence of the commission. With more encouragement, more work can be done, and as men are led to face seriously their responsibilities in the matter the race problem yields in the direction of solution. After all, treating human beings as human beings is a pretty good way to get them to act like human beings.

DRAW YOUR CONCLUSION

Philadelphia Tribune.

A Negro fraternal organization doing business in Harlem, the mecca of Negro brains, gave a banquet last week in honor of its chief officer.

The banquet was served in a hall owned by another race, the food was prepared by white hands and served by members of the same race. It was necessary for the guests and members to check their coats and hats in a room operated by white clerks.

INTERRACIALLY SPEAKING

Current Comment on Matters of Common Concern

By R. B. Eleazer

Race conscious Negroes who can see no good in white people and no wrong in their own race will get small comfort from the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into affairs in Liberia. One would suppose that two hundred years of bondage in America would have weaned Negroes completely from the traditional practice of slavery. Set free and expatriated on their own contention, one certainly would not have expected American Liberians to enslave the benighted natives, less fortunate members of their own race. Yet it appears that this is just what many of them did.

The Commission of Inquiry found that forced labor and a type of peonage amounting to practical slavery were common conditions. Vice President Yancey, several district commissioners, and many other officials were found guilty of criminal participation in the shipment of forced labor under conditions described as "scarcely distinguishable from slave-raiding and slave-trading." High officials of the Liberian government made use of forced labor on their private farms, often brutally and ruthlessly. The report describes also the existence of domestic and tribal slavery, as well as the "pawning" of natives. As a result of these revelations President King, Vice President Yancey, and many other government officials have resigned, and a number of representatives have been expelled from the Legislature.

Let us hope that this shake-up, long overdue, will end forever the practice of slavery and forced labor in Liberia. Certainly the existence of such conditions there cannot be cited as excuse for similar injustice elsewhere. However, they do reveal the fact that human nature is pretty much the same, irrespective of race, and that no racial group can ascribe to any other a monopoly of the instincts of selfishness and exploitation.

There are a great many mean white people, and more yet who are ignorant and misguided. Out of their selfishness they exploit those weaker than themselves; out of their ignorance and traditional misconceptions they condone and justify their conduct. It appears that, given similar opportunity, there are Negroes who do exactly the same sort of thing. One need not go to Liberia to find illustrations of that fact. They are numerous enough at home.

On the other hand, there are fair-minded, unselfish white people, and fair-minded, unselfish Negroes, trying to live in peace and justice with one another. Probably there is a larger number yet who are trying to be fair-minded, but are so handicapped by traditional misunderstanding and prejudice that they find it almost impossible.

For both groups the lesson is obvious—a greater degree of consideration for one another, the effort to understand the other's viewpoint and to make allowance for his mistakes, refusal to meet him at his own worst level, and patient effort instead of enlighten him and win his understanding. That's a large order, of course; but in the last analysis, our interracial tangle can be solved by no other process.

What the People Think

Call 1-23-31

LYNCHING NEWS CAUSED HARDSHIPS

Kansas City

The Editor of The Call.

The burning of a defenseless Negro by a mob of "real white men" with emphasis on white of course (excuse me Mr. Pickens) at Maryville, Mo., certainly gave the white dailies of Kansas City, a chance to play to the gallery.

This insidious propaganda carried on by the daily paper with the able assistance of the Associated Press, is certainly arousing no end of hatred toward the Negro. While I could show others, I shall give one illustration.

Tuesday, while driving for my employer, we stopped in a small Kansas town for dinner. I was refused service at a restaurant where I have been eating for two years. The owner said feeling was so high against Negroes since they read of the Maryville people in the Kansas City dailies, that he would lose trade by feeding me.

The first thing I did after arriving home was to call up the white paper boy and tell him to stop throwing the Star at my house. I have also influenced two of my friends to stop taking the Journal-Post.

It costs about eight dollars a year to take a daily paper. I belong to the N. A. A. C. P. I think it would benefit all of us more to give four dollars to the N. A. A. C. P., and a good colored paper could be subscribed for, with some left to help the unemployed with the balance.

Foolish Negroes who say they take the daily paper to see what the other fellow is doing, should take colored papers to see what their own are doing.

About ten friends of former Senator Allen stopping donating to the N. A. A. C. P., after Allen lost out, that should be significant to thinking Negroes. Negroes can command respect from hostile daily papers by refusing to buy their paper.

It seems to me to be folly to feed the mouth that bites you.

A READER

Note: The Call has the name and address of the writer of the letter above. We would call his attention, however, to the fact that the daily papers could not overlook the Maryville lynching as a news story—perhaps the biggest news story that will break in these parts for some time. The editors of this paper, desiring to give everyone his due, suggest to the writer of this letter that a careful reading of the news stories and editorials in The Kansas City Star will show that that newspaper handled the lynching in a most constructive and commendable manner. We think we know just how this writer feels. Every Negro everywhere was sickened first by the discovery that the alleged murderer was a Negro and second by the awful burning. In our humiliation and resentment of the brand that is put on all of us for the crime of one, we are prone to see unfriendliness in even the very mention of the occurrence. Let us recognize the good that newspapers do along with the bad; let us be fair, even when it hurts.

ANOTHER LESSON FROM MARYVILLE

To the Editor of The Call;

An American citizen accused of a crime while being taken to court for trial, handcuffed and bound to a chain, was seized by other American citizens and taken to the place where he was supposed to have done the deed, chained to the rafters of a frame building, his clothes and the building saturated with gasoline and burned alive to death. Although there was some doubt of his guilt, and he begged for a trial and mercy, he received less sympathy than would be given a dog.

This is a chapter in American history and happened in the great state of Missouri, January 1931.

I believe that some white citizens in the town of Maryville are Christians. I believe that some of them felt that the sixty National guardsmen present would protect the Negro prisoner. I believe also that some of those white citizens if they knew positively that the Negro was innocent would have actively tried to hinder his being lynched, but the leaders of the mob did not burn their victim because of the enormity of the crime committed, but because it gave them and all who assisted and supported an opportunity to give vent to their savage, fiendish, deep-rooted, intense hatred of a Negro. The brunt of the blame should fall on the sheriff who was either too feeble-minded or criminally negligent. He should be removed from office and punished. The sixty National guardsmen sent by the governor of the state and who were awaiting a call for their service may have a legal excuse for not interfering with the mob, but any feeble-minded person could readily understand that if a mob of Negroes had tried to lynch or burn a white prisoner those same guardsmen would have acted, CALL or NO CALL. I sometimes wonder on occasions like these why some loud voiced, manhood claiming Negroes, to show their disapproval, do not under cover of some dark night set fire to an empty barn or coal shed. However the advice of The Kansas City Call is sound, in times like these when the souls of men are tried, be steady, steady. Every story has a moral and the moral in this can be seen only by persons who have the power to use their brains in sustained thought. Negroes suffer many disadvantages and ill-treatment because of their economic weakness. The moral of this story is, Negroes should take an interest in the welfare and progress of Negroes.

J. A. WILSON,
308 Franklin ave. K. C. K.

MARYVILLE LYNCHING IS 'O.K.'D' BY STUDENTS

Defender

Daily Illini Says Sizzle of Human Flesh Would Be Soothing—Editorial "On the Mob Instinct" Creates Furore.

1-31-31

NEW YORK, Jan. 29—An editorial in the Daily Illini, newspaper published by the students of the University of Illinois, condoning and approving of the burning at the stake of a Negro at Maryville, Mo., has drawn a strong letter of protest from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to David Kinley, president of the university. The letter, signed by Herbert J. Seligmann, N. A. A. C. P. director of publicity, is as follows:

"In behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, I wish to call your attention and vigorously to protest against a shocking editorial of which a clipping comes to us, attributed to the Daily Illini, published at the University of Illinois.

Chicago, Ill.

"This editorial, entitled 'On the Mob Instinct,' is nothing less than an apalogia for the beastly and degenerate outbreak at Maryville, in which a human being was publicly burned to death in the presence of men, women and children. The editorial says that 'Although the lynching is the subject of criticism, it should not be condemned too severely, and also that 'it may be considered lightly from the standpoint of civilized creatures inflicting justice without taking a chance of someone else allowing the prisoner to escape punishment. In this respect our civilization has no reflection cast upon it.'

"It need hardly be pointed out to you that when the students of an institution of higher learning condone the dethronement of courts of law and the abrogation of constitutional guarantees of due process, at the instance of lawless mobs of murderers, that is the gravest possible reflection upon that institution of learning. May I quote further from the editorial in question: 'But who is there among us that wouldn't, deep in his instinctive blood, delight in helping to burn at the stake someone who had done a heinous injustice to mankind? How merrily the flames would crackle! How enhancing would be the shrieks and pleadings of the victim, and how soothing the sizzle of human flesh and the aroma of scorching hair.'

"For sheer bestiality I have never seen any utterance emanating from any institution of learning in the world to match this one from the students of the University of Illinois. Does this represent the attitude of the university, and does the university tolerate such expressions in its publications?"

REPORT THROWS SCARE INTO LYNCHERS

[illegible]

Pittsburgh, Pa

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 22—(A. N. P.)—A report that a group of citizens of color was on [illegible] here to avenge the lynching of Raymond Gunn threw this little town into an uproar Saturday, and for hours the atmosphere was charged with tenseness, anticipation and fear.

Those men and women who Monday burned Gunn and a schoolhouse and were reputed to have been seeking a second victim, were visibly alarmed over the prospects of facing a group of armed Negroes bent upon wreaking vengeance on them for their cowardly deed.

The sheriff, according to reports, who Monday failed to call out troops stationed here to protect Gunn, because he did not want to aggravate the mob, immediately advised the commander of the troops of the report that had reached here, and at the slightest pretext was ready to sound the alarm. The report, however, proved false and the Gunn lynching is being investigated by the governor's investigator.

SAYS LYNCH EVIL CAN BE ERADICATED

Defender

1-24-31

Chicago, Ill.

ATLANTA, Jan. 23.—That lynching is the "worst blot upon our civilization, and a crime which practically any determined officer can prevent if he will only work quick enough" was the statement of Police Chief Ben T. Watkins of Macon, president of the Georgia Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers, who delivered the principal address at the annual meeting of the Georgia interracial commission held in this city Jan. 14.

Among the causes of lynching Chief Watkins mentioned race prejudice, the slow process of justice, crooked lawyers, politicial fear and legal loopholes. As a remedy he recommended fearless law enforcement and speedy trials, the education of public opinion, intelligent precautionary measures and vigorous prosecution of those committing mob violence. Every jail in the state, he said, should be equipped with tear bombs and machine guns for use in such emergencies.

At the conclusion of this address the commission requested that every minister in Georgia deliver from his pulpit a vigorous pronouncement against lynching and other forms of mob violence.

A hundred men and women were present from various parts of the state, and an interesting program was carried out. Among the speakers were Forrester B. Washington, director of the Atlanta School of Social Work; Rev. D. H. Stanton, President H. A. Hunt of Fort Valley high and industrial school; Mrs. H. R. Butler, president of the national congress of Colored parents and teachers, and a number of others. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Comer Woodward of Emory university, who is chairman of the state commission.

DIXIE WOMEN DENOUNCE MOB ATROCITIES

Defender

1-24-31

Chicago, Ill.

ATLANTA, Jan. 23.—Twenty of Georgia's most prominent women, meeting here Jan. 14 in person and by proxy, constituted themselves the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching and affiliated with the recently organized Antilynching Association of Women of the Southern States. Vigorous resolutions were adopted denouncing mob violence and expressing deep humiliation at the state's lynching record for 1930.

"The real victim of a lynching," the resolutions affirm, "is not so much the person done to death as it is the constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other."

"We shall not remain idle, indifferent or acquiescent," the resolutions continue. "We shall carry on a campaign of education and action for the prevention of lynching. We shall seek to have brought to justice persons who are participants in this crime." The statement concluded with a call to the women of all the southern states to join in a movement 'to rid the South of a crime which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianiay and destroys our government.

The meeting was called by Mrs. W. A. Turner of Newman at the suggestion of the woman's department of the commission on interracial co-operation, and is one a series of such meetings to be held throughout the southern states for the purpose of mobilizing the women in an effective antilynching campaign.

This campaign was initiated on Nov. 1 when 20 women representing eight states of the Southeast met here and laid out the general plan of organization and action. This was followed by a similar regional meeting west of the Mississippi. The movement is now taking the form of state organizations, which are being set up as rapidly as possible.

Lynchings - 1931
Discussions.

Negro Press, (Northern.)

FAILED TO ACT FOR WOULD BE KILLED

Argus

Sheriff Makes Excuses For Surrendering of Prisoner to Mob Without Resisting.

1-16-31

N. A. A. C. P. Asks Removal

St. Louis, Mo

Condemnation of Law Enforcement Pour in. Resolution Passed by Legislature.

The little town of Maryville of five thousand inhabitants in the hau'daV western part of the state was quiet Wednesday after the lynching-burning of Raymond Gunn in that city on Monday, January 12.

An eye witness to this affair writes: "You never saw anything like it." The day was described as a holiday. Everything was ready and the stage was set. The actors had been chosen and there was nothing to do but the actual turning over to the mob of the victim. There were fully a thousand people milling around the court house when the prisoner was seized and from that time on the crowd raged like hungry lions. Noises, cries of many varieties, hisses and jeers were in the air. One at a short distance, could not hear what was said, but the leaders worked as though they were under instructions pulling, pushing, dragging their victim to the place where he was to meet a horrible death.

Women and Children in Crowd

As the crowd surged and forged its way through the streets, women and children half frightened, but otherwise high excited by what was taking place, were seen hopping about in fiendish glee. No scene could express heathenism more than the sight of those people. Some of the women had babes in their arms. The men and boys, for the most part, were frantic. They appeared as ferocious as wild beasts. They tore not only the clothing from Gunn, but also tore each other's clothes. Others in the mob seemed to be as orderly as if going to Sunday School. For miles along the roadway leading to the little schoolhouse where the prisoner was burned, there were people going and coming, some jesting while others were more serious about what had happened. At some points it looked like a big holiday in summer time where the populous was attending a County fair.

More glaringly savage was the action of law enforcement agents. Neither civilian officers nor a national guard battery mobilized to protect the menaced prisoner interferred after those who resorted to lynch law had wrenched him from Sheriff England and marched and dragged him three miles to the school.

Protests Are Heard

Protests have been heard on every side. The N. A. A. C. P. has taken a hand and demanded that governor Caulfield remove the Sheriff who admitted that he knew that Gunn was going to be lynched, but would not use his authority to call up Adjutant General A. V. Adams, to bring out the national guardsmen because he feared someone would get hurt. The Missouri Legislature Thursday passed a resolution condemning the crime and urging an investigation and prosecution. Even the citizens of Maryville itself, since their anger has cooled, have condemned the Sheriff.

Taken With Ease

An eyewitness in discribing the lynching of Gunn told of the mob meeting the sheriff and his deputies and taking his prisoner from him with little effort. Gunn was dragged off by a chain the sheriff had placed on him. He was tortured and his clothing torn from him as he was marched to the school. He bore it stoically never attempting to resist or making any outcrys. A crowd of more than 1,900 persons were waiting at the schoolhouse when the mob arrived.

The schoolroom furniture was piled about the building. Gun was forced to mount a ladder to the roof and creep to the ridgepole. Shingles were removed to permit him to be fastened by chains to the rafters of the building. Roof, floors and furniture were drenched with gasoline and a moment later a burst of fire reached the victim.

The victim waved at the mob once before the flames seared his flesh, then writhed and screamed until he died.

Said They Awaited Order

Capt. Ed. Condon, commanding C Battery, said the unit was under orders to act only upon request of the sheriff.

"We were powerless to move," he added, "unless ordered to do so by Sheriff England. We left the armory at 3 p. m without hearing from him. That was hours after the lynching.

The 63-year-old sheriff was at home in bed, suffering, he said, from a sprained back and arm resulting from his encouter with the mob. He said:

"It is too bad it happened, but there were just too many of them for us."

The lynching of Gunn followed an unsuccessful attempt on his life at St. Joseph, whence he was taken for safekeeping after Nodaway County attorneys announced he had confessed and a mob began to form here.

He was spirited away to Kansas City, then returned to Maryville at 3 a. m. a week ago for preliminary hearing. The prosecutor, whose house had been picketed by incensed citizens, eluded them by remaining away all night before the hearing. Gunn was returned to Kansas City and reappeared Monday morning for arraignment.

The crowd of people and automobiles around the scene of the lynching extended a mile along the roads in each of four directions.

Ten minutes after the torch was applied the roof fell in and the schoolhouse was soon a heap of smouldering ashes. The crowd dispersed slowly. For hours afterwards men stood in small groups about the streets. Few women appeared, although there had been many women, and children, too, at the burning.

Virgil Rathburn, Nodaway County prosecutor, said he did not care to discuss what action he might take against leaders of the mob.

"Could Have Been Stopped"

One lawyer, who witnessed the affair from the time Gunn was taken from the sheriff until the burning schoolhouse collapsed with its victim, said today that "one hard boiled man with a gun could have taken Gunn away from the mob."

"They were all good natured, despite their grim task," he said. "And I don't believe that there were more than a dozen or fifteen actually taking part in the lynching at any time".

Almost two hours elapsed between the time he was seized by the mob leaders and the time the gasoline-saturated roof of the schoolhouse was ignited, according to the lawyer. The national guard had all that time in which to act, but no member was seen to leave the armory until the adjutant general dismissed the organization at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon.

1931 DISHONOR ROLL

RECORD OF LYNCHINGS FOR 193

Jan. 12, 1931—Raymond Gunn—Maryville, Missouri—Burned to death chained to ridge pole of schoolhouse where white woman had been found dead.

Guardian
1-17-31

LYNCHING AND STATES—BEHOLD MISSOURI

Guardian, Boston, Mass

The lynching of Raymond Gunn, a Colored man, at Maryville, Missouri in the first month of the new year of 1931 is simply horrible. No more perfect case of this United States of America habit and practice could be imagined. A Colored prisoner in a white-dominated community, securely in the hands of the law, taken by, and perhaps given over to, a white mob for execution by cowards, with troops mobilized nearby and refusing or failing to act on an alleged technicality that they had to be requested to act by a sheriff who declares he did not know they had been called out the victim paraded over the countryside, bereft of shoes and shirt, to the "scene of the crime," chained to the ridge pole of the schoolhouse where the white woman teacher was found murdered, the building soaked with oil and set on fire, hundreds of whites many of them women and even children, gloating over the spectacle of a human being burned alive. The County Attorney silent, the legislature refusing to entertain a motion to investigate the disgrace on State and County, one of its members declaring it was the county's affair, another that it was justified, only the Governor feebly starting a probe and our national President and Congress silent.

The spokesman of the delegation of the National Colored Anti-Lynching Congress told Pres. Hoover in the White House that the only possible remedy for lynching was a federal law because "states are unable or unwilling to stop it." So soon the statement is corroborated by an actual lynching and one in a Border State at that.

SOLUTION FOR LYNCHINGS

Call
1-16-31
Kansas City

Afro-American.

Under this heading, the Baltimore Evening Sun said:

> The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reports 25 lynchings for 1930, which probably means that Tuskegee will report 20. Tuskegee never reports a lynching until it has been proved that there was a lynching; the National Association is not so careful.

As a matter of fact, Tuskegee's research department actually reported 21. But this variance in reports is not due to the carelessness of one and carefulness of the other. The truth is that the N. A. A. C. P. with its scores of branches throughout the country, and its four secretaries constantly travelling everywhere is in position to uncover cases of mob violence which do not get into the daily and weekly press upon which Tuskegee relies for its reports.

It is plainly evident that an organization whose business it is to ferret out cases of racial discrimination and furnish legal advice to its victims will in the course of twelve months secure more authentic information than is furnished by the general news agencies or a college department depending solely upon such sources.

Due to the backwardness and isolation of many of our Southern agricultural areas, the N. A. A. C. P. concludes, and properly so, that even its larger list is incomplete, for it is known that every year there are cases of lynchings which are never publicly exposed. Why should counties in South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas which have steadfastly declined to prosecute, much less punish mobs, be above concealing their lawlessness?

The Sun notes also that the increase in lynching is co-incident with the decline of the Ku Klux Klan and suggests that the South, bereft of its night shirt parades and in need of excitement accompanied by bloodshed, should turn to bull fighting.

Well, we have also heard that the increase in lynchings is due to unemployment, so that when experts disagree, one layman's views are as good as another's.

When all is said, however, lynching must be solved as are other crimes. The remedy for lawlessness is the law. The solution of criminality is punishment.

When the country is unable to cope with crime, and the state is unwilling there ought to be strength enough in Uncle Sam's good right arm to spring a gallows trap.

The only solution of lynching is to hang a few lynchers, and if a Republican Congress thinks anything of pre-election pledges, it will pass an anti-lynching law with teeth in it and make hangings possible.

3387

Talking It Over

With ROY WILKINS

In this column Mr. Wilkins is free to express his own opinions which are not necessarily the views of this newspaper.

Call

1-16-31

Kansas City

Mo.

AS this is written, word has just come to this office that Missouri has taken the honor of being the first state in 1931 to hold a lynching.

And Missouri was no piker in its little holiday at Maryville. It proceeded with all the traditional trimmings of a lynching, omitting only the peculiar Mississippi habit of cutting off the victim's ears.

The prisoner was led down the main street of the town and the sidewalks, according to an account in one paper, were crowded as though for a circus parade. This is as it should be. The sheriff, in any good lynching, always leads the prisoner right to the mob.

Of course, the mob crowded down upon the sheriff's car and took the prisoner away. He was fastened on a chain (all lynchers chain the victim and drag him about) and led on out of town to the country school house where he is said to have confessed he killed a young teacher last month.

—o—

WHEN the schoolhouse was reached, it was found to be surrounded by parked cars and a considerable crowd of neighbors gathered from three counties. Sheriff Harve England seemed to have been the only man for miles around who did not know a lynching was going to take place Monday morning 'long about ten o'clock.

The schoolhouse had been prepared for the event. All the valuable equipment had been removed from it, even the door and window frames taken out. All of which proves that the neighbors had made thorough preparations for the business of burning a man alive.

Women were there holding babies in their arms. Every first class lynching has its women and its babies looking on. Maryville staged a first class lynching.

Even the militia was present. It was mobilized in the armory several blocks away from where it was needed and the men sat around smoking cigarettes and wondering what they would do with guns in the event someone actually ordered them to use them. After the lynching was over (and it was pretty hard on the militia to have to sit there on their technicalities, so to speak, and not get in on the very funny business of burning a man alive) the home guards repaired to their various places of abode.

All this bluff of a militia goes with an A-1 lynching also. The militia must be somewhere around—within three or four miles of the lynching at least. Sometimes it is ordered nearer than this, even to the scene of the crime, but at such times it is ordered not to shoot. This latter plan is known as the Moody method, having been invented by Dan Moody, governor of Texas.

—o—

THE last lynching in Missouri took place three and a half years ago, in 1927, a hanging at Braggadocio, Mo. Another notable one was that at Columbia, Mo., in the spring of 1923 when a Negro was lynched by a mob composed in part of University of Missouri students.

Both these lynchings were more or less impromptu outbursts of passion and indignation. But Maryville on Monday, in addition to giving Missouri the first lynching in any state in 1931, also presented its state with a perfectly organized fiendish crime. There was no outburst at Maryville. The first heat of resentment against the crime which Gunn is said to have confessed had died. A mob had attempted to take the prisoner away from a Buchanan county sheriff at St. Joseph and had been repulsed with a half-dozen words in a business-like tone of voice.

There was no passion at Maryville. There was a deliberate, calculated, organized defiance of law.

When the crackling rafters of the little schoolhouse crashed in Monday morning and carried the burning flesh and bones that had been Gunn down with them, there went down also the ideals which had been taught in that and [illegible] less other little school houses; there went the law which until now had ruled Maryville; there went the majesty of the state of Missouri, which for all its school houses, for all its forms and pretensions of government, for its putty adjutant, its toy soldiers, its trusting sheriffs and its technicians-at-law, is not yet come into full stature as a civilized social organization.

—o—

UP to the time I close this column, Maryville has executed a perfect lynching, every item of which was according to Hoyle. It remains to be seen whether the thing will end as all good lynchings end: with everyone demanding an inquiry and no one conducting an inquiry with everyone afflicted with loss of memory for faces and names; with newspapers declaring against the "outrage" in the editorial columns and cleverly fanning feeling in news columns with inflaming headlines and misleading phrases in news stories; with the governor saying he "regrets" and that he did all he knew how; with the militia commander hiding behind some order he did or didn't get; and finally with the whole thing being allowed to die.

The first two acts of the drama have been staged without a hitch. The crime has been committed; the villian has been caught and lynched. Is Missouri's third act to be the usual buck-passing, alibi-pleading, know-nothing finale?

Lynchings And Such

Gary, Ind.

1-17-31

WITH probably no conscious attempt at sarcasm, the Boston Chronicle recently used an eight column headline over a news release stating "25 Lynched in South in 1930." Two of these victims of mob law were Hoosiers, as everybody knows.

But from a survey of conditions here in Indiana, it would seem that many portions of this state are akin to Dixie spiritually, at least. Two weeks ago the first of the alleged Marion mob leaders was handed his freedom by a jury although he had been positively identified. He was tried before a prejudiced judge who considered the cases "too unimportant" to at first schedule them. Later he set aside only three days for trials of the entire six men. Dates for the other five have not as yet been made and there is some talk now of dismissing the charges against them. More than 100 men were questioned before a jury could be chosen.

Have these facts shown Indiana to be any better than Alabama or Mississippi? The south has had mock trials so our illustrious state has proved itself possessed of no greater virtue than Georgia.

Gary, Ind.

The lynching at Missouri this week was carried out along the modern methods which the more advanced states, including Indiana have approved. A sheriff stood by "powerless." The only touch of uniqueness was in the presence of armed soldiers who looked peaceably on. As was the case with Grant county Sheriff Jacob Campbell, Missouri Sheriff Harve England was afraid of "bloodshed and the killing of innocent people." Afterwards, the governor demanded an "investigation" and the sheriff promised to "name the leaders." It appears very much like a duplication of the Marion orgy.

The position of the Boston paper seems to be sound.

What Maryville Did

(An Editorial)

Call 1-16-31 Kansas City, Mo.

More was destroyed in the school house at Maryville Monday than an alleged murder. Guilty or innocent, the events of that day are now past for Gunn. But not for those who set him afire; not for the thousands who made his funeral pyre a Maypole; not for the state wherein officials put passion in charge; not for all the citizenry who must start anew to learn that their neighbors are to be judged by the just persons rather than by the criminal.

The Sherman, Texas, mob destroyed a court house in order to burn a Negro. Maryville out-did Sherman,—it burned a school. Had an American flag floated above the building to which Gunn was chained, the mob would have thought its burning a desecration. But they never hesitated to burn the super-emblem of our country, the school in which the Americanism of tomorrow is made.

The innocence of childhood also was put in the flames at Maryville. Every witness to this horrible spectacle will carry a scar on his memory to his dying day. This human being sinking into a ring of flame will be a companion picture to Santa Claus for the little ones who saw this mob's work, sour soil for good citizenship and good morality.

Missouri's contemplated improvement program was crippled at Maryville. Of what use are new plans, depending on new legislation when old laws going back to the time of Moses, are set aside, with a circuit judge, a sheriff, and a mayor winking at the law-breaking by pretending they did not know of the preparations for lynching which had been going on three days?

Religion in Maryville will be many a year recovering from Monday's cruel deed. Though the thousands who gave countenance to the killers by their presence go to church, theirs will be Cain's sacrifice.

When Elijah, the prophet despaired, he was comforted by the assurance that there were yet seven thousand in Isreal who had not bowed to Baal. Where was one, just one, in Maryville last Monday? From that city have come men high in the state's affairs. Yet on Monday they were silent. In their stead the community accepted the leadership of blood. From the earliest time, executioners even in the service of the law, have been abhorred, so strong is nature's rebellion against those who take life. But Maryville, once distinguished by its sweet community life, accepted the leadership of the dregs which passion boiled up from the depths. It was literally a Sodom, with not one good person to lead it to sanity.

Maryville lynched Gunn when there was still doubt of his guilt. It knew his confession was the result of police third degree methods. It knew that for several days after the crime he was about his usual activities. It gave all weight to the one and none to the other. It called in blood hounds and disregarded their findings. Suppose Gunn was not guilty! The real murderer will go free, because Maryville will never admit it took vengeance on an innocent man. Lynch law blocks investigation and cripples justice.

Maryville frightened away the capital which Missouri needs to expand its business. If a mob there, with the supine assistance of officials can take human life when it pleases and even the state can not intervene, no investor will come into industrial centers like St. Louis and Kansas City, because a labor uprising could easily do with money what Maryville did with life.

Twice in recent Missouri history, the mob has missed its mark. In Columbia it hung a janitor accusing him of rape, and then found he was utterly innocent. In Excelsior Springs it killed a cook, for rape, only to admit afterward there was neither rape nor attempt at rape. What Benjamin Franklin once said still holds true: "A mob is [illegible] heads enough, but no brains."

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

Negro Press, (Southern.)
6

3388

Gov. Asks Strong Laws Against Mob

[illegible] Tribune
1-29-31
Savannah Ga

Retiring South Carolina Executive Condemns Mob Violence

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 26—Denunciation of lynching and a request for laws giving additional protection to prisoners featured the final message to the legislature of Hon. John G. Richards, who has just retired from the governorship of South Carolina. This recommendation, it is pointed out, is entirely consistent with Gov. Richard's well-known and vigorous opposition to mob violence.

Deeply deploring the two lynchings which took place in the state during his administration, the Governor pointed out weaknesses needing correction both in the existing laws applying to such crimes and in their administration. In each of these cases he laid upon the sheriff a share of the blame, though in differing degrees. On this point Gov. Richards said:

"In Oconee county the sheriff was wounded in defending his prisoner and is to be commended for his bravery, but he was remiss in that he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety.

"The Union county lynching is another story. In this case the sheriff cannot escape his responsibility. He did not appeal to nor notify the Governor his prisoner was in danger. There is evidence that the sheriff was present when the lynching took place, and although it was bright daylight, and the lynchers were not disguised, he testified at the coroner's inquest he did not know any of them."

Are The Flames Of Mob Hysteria Fanned By Hard Times? Social Experts Ask

Journal and Guide
2-21-31
Norfolk, Va.

IS THERE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN UNREST AND DEPRESSION AND AMERICA'S LYNCHING WAVE?

Restlessness Of Jobless Declared By Some Authorities To Have Led To More Killings; Revealing Survey Given

By R. E. SECREST

In The New York World

That crash along Wall Street in November, 1929, that was hea the far corners of the world, has blamed for practically everything not until now, the beginning of s year, has anyone thought to blai for a decided increase in lynchings ing 1930.

back rd in been but new ne it dur-

Coincident with the announcement of various racial bodies that, on Dec. 31, total lynchings for the year 1930 stood at between twenty-one and twenty-five, came expressed opinions of social and racial experts that the period of unrest and depression following the crash was more or less directly responsible for the increase over the preceding three years.

They explain that in periods of depression, when tempers are short and there are thousands of unemployed men, mob hysteria flames up far more quickly than in normal times. It is significant that in a number of the recorded lynchings during the year, the offense committed by the victim was not known even by members of the mob. These mobmen were drawn largely from the ranks of unemployed men and women, agitated by a disatisfaction which they turned against their victim.

Georgia Led States Easily

As to actual lynching statistics, authorities are inclined to accept the figures of the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama as final. These figures, released Jan. 1, show twenty-one persons lynched in the United States during 1930.

Of this total twenty were Negroes and one was a white man lynched in Florida.

This is ten more than the number for 1929, nine more than in 1928, four more than 1927 and ten fewer than in 1926.

Georgia easily led in the number

the year, but five of the cases they list have been investgated by the Tusgekee department and put down as murder by individuals rather than mob action.

First appearances in these cases indicated mob action, but closer investigation showed individual parties were responsible.

Tuskegee's figures have been accepted generally during the last twenty years as conservatively correct and have been approved for 1930 by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, the leading organization of its kind and newspaper editors generally.

Fourteen of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were killed in jail, two of these were shot to death and one was burned to death when a mob burned the jail and court house at Sherman, Texas.

Five of the eleven other persons in the hands of the law were taken from jail and six from officers of the law outside the jails. Of the six victims who did not come into police hands, one was burned to death and one was put to death and his body burned.

White Woman Confessed Lie

There were thirty-seven instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern states and thirty-four in in Southern states. In thirty-two of the cases the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repulse the would-be lynchers.

Offenses involved in the lynchings run a gamut. They include rape and attempted rape, accounting for a total of ten victims; murder; killing officers of the law; robbery; being a witness against a white man; being active in politics and offenses unknown.

In at least three of the rape cases, the Negroes lynched were never positively identified by their alleged victims. In one case the white woman involved admitted later that she had not been attacked but had become frightened by a Negro. Her hysteria led to a speedy lynching.

In this connection, Walter White, acting secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People states:

"That lynching is not and never has been primarily a 'protection of white womanhood 'in the South or elsewhere is attested by the increasing number of resolutions passed by leading white women in the South repudiating this form of barbarity. During the year, representative white women of twelve Southern states passed resolutions declaring they desired no such 'protection.'"

In yet another case, a woman who had been guilty of an indiscretion in her relations with men and fearing her husband would discover her secret, blamed a Negro for an attack that never took place. Subsequently a suspect was arrested, taken from the jail and lynched. The woman, an illiterate person of the "white trash" type, admitted under pressure that she had lied.

A Study of Cases

A study of the cases shows that in almost every instance where a prisoner was taken from jail or from officers, a decided stand by the officers in question would have averted a lynching.

At Huntsville, Ala., early in the fall, two Negroes were placed in jail on separate charges, one involving the murder of a white man and the other the robbery and killing and wounding of a white man and his wife. A mob stormed the jail on the night after they were arrested and demanded the two prisoners. The sheriff of the county quietly refused to accede to their demands, and when he saw the [illegible] dangerous, he

of lynchnigs with six. Other states follcw in their order: Mississippi, four; Texas, three; Indiana and South Carolina, two each; Alabama, Florida, North Carolina and Oklahoma, one each.

Figures of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with headquarters in New York, show a total of twenty-five lynchings

On the other hand, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People demands immediate congressional action.

In its statement issued at the first of the year, it says:

"Prompt action by Congress on lynching is vitally necessary. In periods of depression, lynchings are more frequent. As the present unemployment crisis seems likely to be with us for some time to come, prompt action can save the lives of men and women as yet unlynched."

The association says that only the federal government can cope with the situation, and that the states have shown themselves powerless or unwilling to prosecute lynchers.

It points out the lynching at Marion, Ind., where the names of twenty-seven known participants were furnished, but with no effective action by the authorities.

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation, composed of leading editors and educators of the nation, does not feel alarmed about the 1930 situation, however. Their records for the fifty-year period ending with 1930 show that the total for last year was small, comparatively speaking.

The total for the half-century from 1880 to 1930 stands at an amazing figure—almost 5,000 dead at the hands of lynchers. This would give an average of fifty victims a year, which compares favorably with the twenty dead for 1930.

situation was getting dangerou called for the militia.

With arrival of the troops un order of Gov. Bibb Graves, the lar crowd dispersed with a harmless display. The Negroes were removed t another jail and later were released as being innocent of the crimes with which they were charged.

Arrival of troops at Sherman, Tex., in what was probably the most sensational mob action in the year, had a directly opposite ffecet, however. The mob in which were many women, attacked the guardsmen and gave them a fierce battle. They succeeded finally in setting fire to the jail, in which was lodged Geo. Hughes, Negro, charged with assault on a white woman.

The guardsmen, many of them residents of the section, were reluctant to fire at the mob and finally withdrew. Members of the mob dynamited the vault in which the Negro by this time had roasted to death, finally obtained his body and dragged it through the streets.

Another outstanding case occurred at Darien, Ga., and led to an investigation that threatened city and county officials and National Guard officers with indictment for murder Two of the guard officers resigned before a grand jury in McIntosh County eventually "whitewashed" both militia and police.

A bank watchman had been wounded in an attempted robbery of a Darien bank. The acting chief of police at Brunswick, who joined in the posse seeking two Negro suspects, was killed in a battle with the fugitives in a rice field near the city. Guardsmen were called from Savannah to join the posse, and succeeded in catching one Negro.

A detachment of the guards took the Negro to jail, which was built in the rear part of the sheriff's home, and had just left his cell when the Negro was shot and killed. The sheriff was ill and in bed at the time. The guardsmen claimed they had done their duty in delivering the prisoner safely to the jail.

The next night, the second Negro suspect was shot and killed at his home by a detachment of the posse said to have included either guardsmen or officers.

Victims Usually Feeble-Minded

Further investigation of the two lynchings was dropped when the grand jury returned no bills after a secret inquiry.

Another double lynching in Mississippi was laid directly to social unrest. Two Negroes robbed a white man and his wife and tied them to trees. Within an hour they had been captured and "strung up" by a mob of idlers and jobless.

At Cartersville, Ga., a Negro who had confessed to killing the chief of poliec was lynched at a time when officers considered they had everything under control. The officers reported that but one or two residents of the town took part in the lynching, the majority being unemployed men from nearby towns. Most of these, it was reported, were members of an organization formed during the depression period and working toward elimination of Negroes from jobs needed by white men.

In a majority of cases where major crimes actually were committed by Negroes who subsequently were lynched, it was found in a study of their past life that they were feeble-minded. or actually verging on criminal insanity.

In this connection, Dr. Will W. Alexander, one of the foremost students of interracial conditions over the world, believes one of the outstanding remedies for what he calls the "lynching fever" is the establishment in states in the lynching zone of institutions for the feeble-minded Negro.

"And," he adds, "after looking over the cases for 1930 I don't think it would hurt any to have institutions for the feeble-minded white persons who usually take part in mob actions."

Regardless of the effect such temporary conditions as the depression might have on the increase or decrease in lynchings, Dr. Alexander has his own unusual theory as to the fundamental causes.

He goes back to long before the Civil War, when the population of the South consisted of the slave-owning, aristocratic planters, their Negroes, and a large majority of "underdog" whites, whom Page called "the forgotten man."

Association Asks Action by Congress

"Before the Civil War," says Dr. Alexander, "this 70 per cent of the South's population was usually referred to by the 'aristocrats' as 'poor white trash,' and was looked down on even by the slaves.

"After the war, the planters, the Negroes, and the 'poor whites' were on the same footing, and all the prejudice and superstitions of years came to the front. The Negro was their enemy, and now that this formerly 'peasant' class is in the ascendancy it is not strange that lynchings are frequent.

"The enforcement officers, the jurists and even the Governors of the new South are drawn from this one class. The 'aristocrats' have faded into the background. With their background of traditional hate, officers in many cases do not attempt to avert lynchings, judges do not prosecute and Governors do not investigate. The lynchings are merely forgotten."

Dr. Alexander believes three things will gradually eliminate lynchings, especially in the South. These are: Readjustment of the traditional attitud of the white persons now in ascendancy toward the Negro; the placing o all feeble-minded Negroes in institutions, thereby eliminating the type o Negro who commits the sorts of crim that lead to lynching; and vigorou prosecution of mob leaders and members.

Journal & Guide

1931 Lynching Score

2-7-31

Norfolk, Va.

Missouri 1
Raymond Gunn, Maryville, Mo., January 12.
North Dakota 1
Charles Bannon, white, Shefer, N. D., January 29.
TOTAL to date 2

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Lynching Goes West

Journal & Guide

2-7-31

Norfolk, Va.

THE north and west have been sitting complacently and paying little or no attention to the lynching parties in the south, proceeding on the assumption that this particular form of savagery belonged to the south and was, therefore, a southern problem. Now, comes North Dakota to the front with the second lynching of the year, the victim white.

Charles Bannon, about to be tried for the murder of a whole family, was being held in the McKenzie county jail when a mob of about eighty men, supposedly his former neighbors, bound the sheriff and overpowered the deputy sheriff and took the prisoner out of town and hanged him from a bridge. It is quite reasonable to suppose that Bannon would have been given the full penalty at the hands of the law. But mob law moves with greater rapidity and gives more satisfaction to a gang of blood-thirsty ruffians.

North Dakota seems to have a peculiar inclination for white victims. The records of the state is that, including the present victim, there have been twelve lynchings, eight white, three Indian and one Negro. But that hardly explains the matter fully.

This lynching shows at least two things: (1) that given sufficient provocation, mobs have no respect of persons. They are blinded by passions which will take vengeance upon white persons just as quickly as upon Negroes; (2) that, although lynching predominates in the south, it is by no means confined to the south. All of which emphasizes the fact that this particular form of savagery is a national malady for which the whole country is responsible and must accept condemnation at the bar of enlightened world opinion.

The country has never accepted this responsibility, but it has an excellent opportunity now that the Wickersham Commission is spending many months and quite a neat sum of the public's funds looking into crime in all of its phases, to bring this matter to the attention of both Congress and the President with a view to remedial legislation. The states have shown themselves powerless and no useful purpose will be served by further evading the issue.

SENATOR BLEASE'S DEFENSE OF LYNCHING

"Senator Cole Blease's recent public defense of lynching illustrates the fact that the anti-Negro ravings of political demagogues have done more than anything else to discredit the South abroad and disturb its peace and tranquility at home," asserted R. B. Eleazer, Educational Director of the Interracial Commission, in an address before the Y. W. C. A. Community Conference, at Blue Ridge, N. C. Foundation

"Solely for the purpose of coining ignorance and prejudice into votes, these pseudo-statesmen habitually misrepresent and discredit the South by broadcasting the impression that it is a land of morons and savages. How often have our cheeks burned with humiliation as they 'strutted their stuff' in Congress or on the stump, while the world looked on in derision and disgust! With the Psalmist we are constrained to say, 'How long, Oh Lord! How long'! Vol. 21. no. 2 March 1931

"Meantime their frenzied appeals to race prejudice sow the seeds of distrust and hostility at home, and tend to make enemies of two races that normally are friendly and should continue so. It is high time for the intelligence and patriotism of the South to repudiate at once and forever such false and dangerous leadership." Atlanta, Ga.

The above statement was heard by an audience of two hundred women from all parts of the South. By prolonged applause and many private expressions the group evidenced their approval of the sentiment expressed.

Increase In Lynching Is Decried

3-17-31

Savannah, Ga.

Methodist Body Declares War On

ALL MOB VIOLENCE

Says Negro Wants Simply Chance to Develop

New Orleans, La., March 10—Means of improving race relations in the south, and particularly of putting an end to lynching, were subjects of major consideration at the annual meeting here last week of the General Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, south.

The increase in lynchings last year was earnestly decried. Mob violence was termed "a blot on our national life than which there is no greater obstacle to the effective ministry of the gospel at home and abroad." Ministers were urged to use their influence in combatting such crimes as persistently as they have fought against other great national sins.

Speaking for the colored group, Dr. W. Y. Bell of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, told the council that Negroes do not want "patronizing paternalism." but rather "the chance to develop racial pride, tempered by Christian vir-

tues." He sounded a warning that "the communists are already inviting my people to make common cause with them in the United States." Christian education and simple justice, he said, are the best means of obviating this danger.

The M. E. Church, south, cooperates with the C. M. E. Church to the extent of $50,000 a year, and contributes also to the work of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Lynchings - 1931
6
Discussions.

Negro Press. (Southern.)

3389

THE LONGER NEGROES ATTEND SCHOOL, THE WORSE OFF THEY ARE

Charlotte N. C.

"In their own as well as in their mixed schools," says Dr. Woodson with respect to Negro History Week, "Negroes are taught to admire the Hebrew, the Greek, the Latin and the Teuton and to despise the African. The thought of the inferiority of the Negro is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and in almost every book he studies. If he happens to leave school after he masters the fundamentals, before he finishes high school or reaches college, he will naturally escape some of this bias and may recover in time to be of service to his people.

"Practically all of the successful Negroes in this country," says Dr. Woodson, "are of this type or that of Negroes who have had no formal education at all. The large majority of Negroes who have put on the finishing touches of our best colleges are all but worthless in the uplift of their people. If after leaving school they have the opportunity to give out to Negroes what traducers of the race would like to have it learn such persons may earn a living, but they never become a constructive force in the elevation of those far down.

"The explanation of this is a simple problem. The schools and colleges of this country are so conducted as to produce this result. For example, an officer of Howard University, thinking that an additional course on the Negro should be given there, called upon a Negro Doctor of Philosophy of the faculty to offer such work. He promptly informed the officer that he knew nothing about the Negro. He did not go to school to waste his time that way. He went to be educated.

"Last year at the Hampton Institute Summer School, a white instructor gave a course on the Negro, using for his text a work of Jerome Dowd who teaches that whites are superior to the blacks. When asked by one of the students why he used such a textbook the instructor replied that he wanted them to get Dowd's point of view. If schools for Negroes are places where they are convinced of their inferiority how can the race escape from its tormentors and rise to recognition and usefulness?

"As another has well said, to handicap a student by teaching him that his black face is a curse and that his struggle to change his condition is hopeless is the worst sort of lynching. It kills one's aspirations and dooms him to vagabondage and crime. All friends of the truth, all lovers of freedom should rise up aganist the present propaganda in the schools and crush it. This crusade is much more important than the anti-lynching movement, because there would be no lynching if it did not start in the school room. Why not exploit, enslave, or exterminate a class that everybody is taught to regard as an inferior being?

"The points of attack," says Dr. Woodson, "may be easily discovered. In the schools of business administration Negroes are trained exclusively in the psychology of Wall Street and are, therefore, made to despise the opportunities to run ice wagons, push banana carts, and sell peanuts among their own people. Foreigners who have not studied these things but have studied Negroes, take this business and grow

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chools of journalism es are being taught how to edit such metropolitan dailies as the 'Chicago Tribune' and the 'New York Times' which would hardly hire a Negro as a janitor; and when such graduates come to the Negro weeklies for employment they are not prepared to function in such establishments, which, to be successful, must be built upon accurate knowledge of the psychology and philosophy of the Negro. In other words, the longer Negroes attend the present day schools the worse off they are. Unless their educational system is so changed as to educate them from within rather than tack on to them something from without their case is hopeless.

"During Negro History Week, then," says Dr. Woodson, "we should emphasize the importance of the reconstruction of the curricula. Both Negroes and whites should be taught the eternal truth of the equality of man. Negro students especially should be taught about the rock from which they were hewn and the status of the people among whom they must live and move. The so-called intelligent class can not rise any higher than those far down. The teamsters and hodcarriers will get their rights at the same time that the professional men get theirs.

"In the schools there should be not only courses in Negro History but also in the literature, art, psychology and philosophy of the race. Because these things have been neglected our 'most learned' Negroes can not recite an African folk-tale, have never heard of the works of Es-Sadi, and know very little about the rising Negro writers of today. Negroes of this type, then, do not cooperate with the churches they avoid welfare organizations; and they seldom participate in Negro enterprises. In fact, they give back practically nothing to the people upon whom they live [illegible]

AMERICA 1931

Norfolk Journal & Guide 1/24/31

Where Does The Governor Of Missouri Stand?

From the New York Herald-Tribune

"No Governor with a backbone stronger than an eel's and a heart with more courage than a rabbit's should let his constituents believe for a moment that he will allow lynchers to escape detection and prosecution to the last limit of a sovereign state's power." The quotation is from "The Atlanta Constitution," one of many Southern papers which have spoken out bravely against that lowest expression of human bestiality—lynching. It applies with as much force in Missouri as in Georgia.

"There might have been bloodshed if the armed Guard had been called out," said the sheriff who failed to do his duty and let a Maryville mob take a Negro prisoner out and burn him alive. His backbone seems to have been as flexible as an eel's; his conception of his duty is as lax as that of Texas's Governor, Dan Moody, who last summer was reported as instructing his Guardsmen to "hold the Negro, if possible, but don't shoot anybody"; his loyalty to the law which he is sworn to support is as lax as that of Senator Cole Blease, of South Carolina, who declares, oratorically and irrelevantly, that "whenever the Constitution comes between men and the virtue of the white women of South Carolina, I say, 'To hell with the Constitution!'" It remains to be seen where the Governor of Missouri stands.

We have had in the last year what a committee of Southern women calls a "shocking resurgence of mob violence," a recrudescence of the appalling business of burning men alive. It had seemed at last as if this dark custom were dying out. North Carolina, until 1930, had not had a lynching for nine years; the annual totals, which had once reached into the hundreds, had descended steadily until in 1929 only ten were recorded in the entire country. "Ten years from now," said Will W. Alexander, of Atlanta, director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, which has been doing so much to build a new era in the South, "we will be wondering how it ever happened." That was in January, 1930. In the succeeding twelve months the annual total of lynchings shot up to twenty-five. Something went wrong. The economic depression may have some curious psychological relation to it. One of the obvious causes is the laxness and indifference of a few high officials, who do not seem to realize what back shadows such crimes cast over their states.

Missouri is one of the border states where, as in North Carolina and Virginia, lynching had about died out. The Governor of Georgia refused to take any interest in a recent lynching at Darien, even when it was reported to him that the Sherif of McIntosh County had flatly stated: "I don't know who killed the Negro, and I don't give a damn." We may be permitted to hope that the Governor of Missouri is made of different stuff.

Officers Worse Than The Mob

From Norfolk Ledger Dispatch

Apparently, the sheriff drove his prisoner straight to the courthouse, where a crowd was awaiting them. Quickly, an unmasked group of men seized the prisoner. "No shot was fired, no weapon brandished." So far as the reports disclose, the sheriff offered no active resistance. Just a block away, stood under arms a battery of the state's field artillery ordered to the place to protect the prisoner. The commanding officer says he had been ordered to take no action except upon request of the sheriff; no request came from the sheriff.

can defend himself on the ground that he was not called upon by the civil authorities. But if this commanding officer, knowing—as he must have known—that the mob was dragging the prisoner away, had been determined in his purpose and vigorous in initiative he would not have awaited a summons from the sheriff: he would have commanded the peace, enforced the peace and rescued the prisoner in the name of the law. Any group of citizens would have had an unquestionable right to prevent the commission of such a felony as the mob was bent on committing. Any forceful military officer in command of troops dispatched to the scene for the purpose of preserving the peace would not, in such circumstances have waited to be called upon by a weakened sheriff.

The action of the mob was vicious and foul enough. But a mob is a mob. The inaction of the civil and military officers was worse than the action of the mob.

Where Lynching Thrives

From the Des Moines Register

Lynching takes root in poverty and ignorance. This conclusion is pointed to by preliminary studies already made by a commission of Southern leaders appointed to study instances which occurred in 1930.

"Lynchings occur most frequently in communities considerably below the average in economic well-being," the report says. "Where many men are living, year after year, on the fringe of hunger and heartbreak, they accumulate a formidable mass of internal emotional tensions demanding satisfaction. Furthermore, the majority of the communities in which the lynchings occurred had less than a six-months school term."

These circumstances suggest th more than a national law against lynching is called for. Such a law, promised in the Republican platform of 1928 but not yet enacted, is urgently needed, but dependence must not be placed in legislation alone.

By lynching Negroes, many Southern white men believe they demonstrate their superiority to the blacks. They fear that unless the Negroes are "kept in their place" by occasional applications of the rope and the faggot, men of darker skin will enter the trades and professions now filled by whites. They want the black skin to remain a mark of mental inferiority. The myth about lynching being necessary for the protection of white women was exploded long ago.

The Marysville Orgy

From Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

The sheriff never called for help, explaining first that he "never expected any violence," and later that to have summoned the troops would have led to bloodshed. He appears to have been the only person in Maryville that did not understand what the crowds around the courthouse were assembling for—a degree of official innocence matched only by his extraordinary notion that troops delegated by the State to prevent a lynching should not be employed for that purpose except with the mob's permission.

The nature of the crime and the nature of the mob's vengeance make this case a harrowing one to discuss. Many sensitive people would prefer that the matter be passed over in silence. But such a policy will never rid the Southern States of the worst blot on its civilization. No civilized society can tolerate the usurpation of the police and judicial functions by fury-poisoned mobs. It degrades the organized State, hamstrings the processes of justice and, in the long run, takes the lives of more innocent persons than guilty.

Walk Out, Young People

From (Baltimore) Afro-American

The row in the student-faculty, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. Conference in the Cadillac Hotel at Detroit, recently, teaches important lessons.

When forty insulted colored delegates get up and walk out of a Christian meeting, we may rest assured that there wasn't must Christianity there.

Recalling the action of the White Plains (N. Y.) Y. M. C. A. which fired secretary Morsell because he rented an apartment in a neighborhood where whites objected, we know that the kind of Christianity in some Y. W.'s and Y.

Southerners' Committee Organize For Purpose of Stamping Out Mob Rule

Independent

Atlanta, Ga.

1-15-31

Mob violence and the economic and educational conditions of Negroes in Georgia were the principal topics considered at the annual meeting of the state interracial committee held at the Luckie Street Y. M. C. A. Wednesday morning and afternoon. An attendance of 100 was present from all parts of the state.

Chief Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, president of the Georgia Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers, talked on how citizens can co-operate with officers to prevent mob violence. The facts about the six Georgia lynchings of 1930 were given by Professor Walter Chivers, of Morehouse College, and Arthur Raper, secretary of the state interracial committee, who have been making exhaustive studies of these occurences.

John B. Guerry, of Montezuma, a member of the Macon county board of education, spoke on "Bigger and Better Schools for All Children," while H. A. Hunt, principal of Fort Valley High and Industrial school, suggested means of making Negro rural schools more effective. A report was made also on the training school for delinquent colored girls which is being projected by the colored women of the state, with the co-operation of the interracial committee.

Forrester B. Washington, director of the Atlanta School of Social Work, and Rev. D. H. Stanton, Methodist presiding elder, talked on the economic condition of Negroes in urban and rural communities. Reports on the White House conference on child health and protection were made by a number of Atlantans who attended the conference.

Dr. Comer Woodward, of Emory University, chairman of the state committee, presided and Dr. Luther R. Christie, pastor of Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, offered the opening invocation. The morning session began at 9:30 and the afternoon session at 2:30.

Independent

Atlanta Ga

1-15-31

GOVERNOR ASKS STRONGER LAWS AGAINST MOB RULE

Independent

1-29-31

Columbia, S. C.—Denunciation of lynching and a request for laws giving additional protection to prisoners featured the final message to the legislature of Hon. John G. Richards, who has just retired from the governorship of South Carolina. This recommendation, it is pointed out, is entirely consistent with Governor Richards' well-known and vigorous opposition to mob violence.

Atlanta Ga

Deeply deploring the two lynchings which took place in the state during his administration, the Governor pointed out weaknesses needing correction, both in the existing laws applying to such crimes and in their administration. In each of these cases he laid upon the sheriff a share of the blame, though in differing degree. On this point Governor Richards said:

"In Oconee county the sheriff was wounded in defending his prisoner and is to be commended for his bravery, but he was remiss in that he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety.

"The Union County lynching is another story. In this case the sheriff cannot escape his responsibility. He did not appeal to nor notify the Governor his prisoner was in danger. There is evidence that the sheriff was present when the lynching took place, and although it was bright daylight, and the lynchers were not disguised, he testified at the coroner's inquest he did not know any of them."

Says Officer Can Stop Lynching

Tribune

1-22-31

Savannah, Ga.

Macon Chief of Police Gives His Views Before INTERRACIAL COMMIS.

Law Enforcement Should Act Quickly

Atlanta Jan. 17—Police Chief Ben T. Watkins of Macon, president of the State Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers, today said lynching was "a crime which practically any determined police chief can prevent if he will only work quick enough."

Chief Watkins, speaking at the annual meeting of the state interracial commission, classed lynching as "the blackest blot meared across our history."

One of the means of prevention suggested was the rigid enforcement of traffic laws and keeping the people moving. The officer also recommended that all jails be equipped with tear bombs and submachine guns, and fearless prosecution of those guilty of mob violence.

The Macon officer gave race prejudice, slow processes of justice, political fear, dishonest lawyers and legal loopholes as among causes of lynchings.

The commission adopted a resolution recommending that every minister in the state during the year make from his pulpit a rigid protest against this type of crime.

Arthur Raper, secretary, reported that "Georgia had twice as many lynchings as any other state in 1930." He said this was a "challenge to all right-thinking people in the state."

The secretary said that the six negroes lynched during the year in Georgia 2 "were alleged to have killed officers; one accused of murder and assault on a woman and one of attempted assault on a woman. His report showed the frustration of several threats to lynch.

Encouraging facts pointed out in the report included the organization of Negro Boy Scouts in several cities, improvement of educational facilities for Negroes and co-operation of officers in prevention of mob activities.

STUDENTS TAKE STEPS IN MARYVILLE AFFAIR

Journal & Guide

2-7-31

Norfolk, Va.

Urge Prosecution Of Members Of Mob; Back New Law

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Shocked by the recent lynching at Maryville, Mo., the college students of this state are being enlisted in a campaign against mob violence, including the support of a special anti-lynching bill which was introduced in the Legislature following the Maryville tragedy.

The movement was initiated by Miss Louise Parks, a student in Drury College, Springfield, who has sent out a letter to the presidents of all the Y. W. C. A. Student Associations in the state asking them (1) to make inquiries locally as to what students can do to register their disapproval of such crimes; (2) to write Governor Caufield asking him what plans he has for the prosecution of the participants in the Maryville mob and for the prevention of similar crimes; (3) to write heir representatives in the Legislature cing for support of the anti-lynch- bill; and (4) to circulate peti- among the student body to the nd.

National Student Council of the C. A. is cooperating in the move through Miss Fern Bab ck, al Student Secretary.

Lynchings-1931
0
Discussions

Negro Press. (Southern)

IS POVERTY THE CAUSE OF LYNCHINGS?

Informer 1-3-31 Houston, Texas

A preliminary report prepared and released by the national commission which was recently appointed for the study of lynching gives poverty as the major contributing cause. Says the leader of the group, "where many men are living year after year, on the fringe of heartbreak and hunger, they accumulate a formidable mass of internal emotional tensions demanding satisfaction. In the majority of studies made so far, the communities in which lynchings occur, had less than a six months school term." This statement is somewhat refuted by the News and Observer of Raleigh, N. C., which observes that "ignorance is more easy to influence than knowledge, but there are other reasons. One is lack of confidence that the courts will punish criminals and growing disrespect for law. All lynchers are by no means ignorant. Often the leader of mobs has had good educational advantages."

There can be no single reason given for the prevalence of the mob in America. It may be poverty and ignorance combined. It may be the competition in economic fields. It may be the work of the demagogue who is incited to wreak vengeance on the helpless minority by reason of having something to conceal. All these things and others combine to give to this country a record of mob crime which is slowly but surely eating its way into the vitals of respect for law. The commission which is making this study will doubtless contribute much to the thinking of the general public with regard to the causes for the evil. But the causes are of consequence only because they help to indicate the cure.

Unless America can realize that its very existence is threatened by this evil; unless the courts can come to the point of punishing these offenders; unless there can come a realization that the safety of all men is bound up in the safety of a single race of men, the day of dissolution of all law in America is not far distant. There can be no doubt but that the disregard for the importance of Negro lives has been responsible for the growing disregard for the lives of all men. It is not debatable that the lack of safety of Negro property has been responsible for the growing disregard for the safety of all property. When the courts of the land cannot find juries to convict those who destroy Negro life and property, it will not be long before juries cannot be found which will convict those who have destroyed lives and property of white men. When it is true that the first cry is "lynch him" where a black man is accused of a crime, it will be only a short while before the same cry will be heard when a white man is accused of a crime or even a misdemeanor. Witness the fact that "lynch him" was heard a few weeks ago in the most fashionable church in New York. America needs to stop short. It needs to enforce its laws. Lynching can be curbed. But it will never be until there is a realization of the fact that all men, regardless of the color of their skins, have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

1930 Lynchings

Among the many events of 1930 that will not be cherished in after life is the year's unenviable record for lynching. There were twice as many of these crimes of violence perpetrated in the year that is just closing as there were in 1929. Whereas, in the former year there were only twelve

recorded and authenticated lynchings there were during this year twenty-five. Of the victims one was a white man and the other were Negroes. Globe

One of the best answers to the contention of the defenders of lynching that this crime is necessary to protect women, is revealed in the cause given for mob outbreaks. The offenses which resulted in lynchings include not stopping an automobile when ordered, being active in politics, testifying against a white man in court, quarreling with a white man, murder, criminal assault, attempted assault and robbery.

Georgia heads the list of lynching states for the year. It has a terrible record. There were no less than seven mob victims in that state. Alabama and Texas had four each, Mississippi three, Indiana and South Carolina two each and Florida, North Carolina and Oklahoma had one each. It should be and doubtless is a source of extreme gratification to all Tennesseans that the record of our state has not been marred during the year by a single mob outbreak.

It is not encouraging to contemplate the mob statistics for the past year. We had hoped that there would be a steady and continuous decline in crimes of this character until finally lynchings would live only as a disagreeable memory. Failure of the states to punish or even prosecute lynchers has resulted in a feeling of security for those who take the law into their own hands. 1-2-31

In periods of depression there is naturally more crime than there is in times when conditions are more promising. Mob hysteria flames up far more quickly than is the case in normal periods. The economic situation during the year no doubt had something to do with the discouraging total of lynchings. Nashville, Tenn.

But whatever the cause or however deplorable the situation may be we must take courage and continue our efforts to eradicate this evil that is like a cankplead any extentuation of any offense that strikes at the very plead and extentuation of any offense that strikes at the very vitals of the government itself. We must press on with renewed determination to create such a sentiment as will make assaults upon the majesty of the states unthinkable.

(Nashville Tennessean, Dec. 30).

LYNCHING LEAGUE ENDS HECTIC SEASON

The curtain has been wrung down on the 1930 season of Judge Lynch's League, Inc., and a glance at the records shows that the mobocratic circuit enjoyed a very prosperous and successful year.

Whether due to economic reasons or a revival of the typical American mob-spirit, the fact remains that the adherents of mobocracy staged a saturnalia of crime, arson and anarchy during the past year, placing a blot upon the American escutcheon which is shameful, shocking and horrible.

Proponents of lynch-law have contended that mobs are necessary to protect womanhood, and that the torch and rope are imperative if "white supremacy" is to be maintained in this country particularly in the South. Houston Defender

Dissatisfied with her miserable showing in the lynching loop for the last few years, Georgia placed a formidable team in the circuit in 1930, and easily copped the gonfalon. 1-3-31

Texas and Mississippi vied honors for second place, ending the season's race in a stalemate for the runner-up position.

The fine showing made by several of the Southern states during the 1930 league chase, simply strengthens the argument so often advanced that the South is the premier lynching section of the entire nation. Houston, Texas

Despite the fact that many of the states in Dixie have shown a decline in lynching bees during the past few years, the fact still remains that the government—national, state and local—can not survive in the face of this hydra-headed monster.

Since the states seem impotent to deal with and subjugate this beastly juggernaut and to eradicate this peculiar type of hunnish kultur from our sectional and national confines, the issue is put squarely up to the federal government, and unless the congress of the United States enacts and enforces stringent anti-lynching legislation, mobocracy is going to supplant democracy in our boasted democratic and Christian commonwealth.

If this nation could not endure part free and part slave, neither can it survive part democratic, part mobocratic, part plutocratic and part "hellocratic."

Either law and order must be supreme, or lawlessness and disorder, of which the mob is the exponent and proponent, will devour the very vitals of our body politic, and great will be the decline and terrible the fall of America.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS APPROVE LYNCHING

Savannah Tribune

Illinois School Paper Condones Maryville Burning

Savannah, Ga

New York, Jan. 23—An editorial in the Daily Illinois, newspaper published by the students of the University of Illinois, condoning and approving of the burning at stake of a Negro at Maryville, Mo., has drawn a strong letter of protest from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to David Kinley, president of the University. The letter, signed by Herbert J. Seligmann, N. A. A. C. P. director of publicity, is as follows:

In behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People I wish to call to your attention and vigorously to protest against a shocking editorial of which a clipping comes to us, attributed to the Daily Illini, published at the University of Illinois.

This editorial, entitled "On the Mob Instinct,', is nothing less than an apologia for the beastly and degenerate outbreak at Maryville, in which a human being was publicly burned to death in the presence of men, women and children. The editorial says that 'Although the lynching is the subject of criticism, it should not be condemned too severely, and also that 'it may be considered lightly from the standpoint of civilized creatures inflicting justice without taking a chance of someone else allowing the prisoner to escape punishment. In this respect our civilization has no reflection cast upon it.'

It need hardly be pointed out to you that when the students of an institution of higher learning condone the dethronement of courts of law and the abrogation of constitutional guarantees of due process, at the instance of lawless mobs of murderers, that is the gravest possible reflection upon that institution of learning. May I quote further from the editorials in question: 'But who is there among us that wouldn't, deep in his instinctive blood, delight in helping to burn at the stake someone who had done a henious injustice to mankind. How merrily the flames would crackle. How enhancing would be the shrieks and pleadings of the victim, and how soothing the sizzle of human flesh and the aroma of scorching air.'

For sheer bestiality I have never seen any utterance emanating from any institution of learning in the world, to match this one from the students of the University of Illinois. Does this represent the attitude of the University, and does the University tolerate such expressions in its publications?

RETIRING S. C. GOVERNOR RAPS MOB VIOLENCE

Houston Informer

Columbia, S. C.—Denunciation of lynching and a request for laws giving additional protection to prisoners featured the final message to the legislature of Hon. John G. Richards, who has just retired from the governorship of South Carolina. This recommendation, it is pointed out, is entirely consistent with Governor Richards' well known and vigorous opposition to mob violence. 1-31-31

Deeply deploring the two lynchings which took place in the state during his administration, the governor pointed out weaknesses needing correction both in the existing laws applying to such crimes and in their administration. In each of these cases he laid upon the sheriff a share of the blame, though in differing degree. On this point Governor Richards said:

"In Oconee County the sheriff was wounded in defending his prisoner and is to be commended for his bravery, but he was remiss in that he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety. Houston Texas

"The Union County lynching is another story. In this case the sheriff cannot escape his responsibility. He did not appeal to nor notify the governor his prisoner was in danger. There is evidence that the sheriff was present when the lynching took place, and although it was bright daylight, and the lynchers were not disguised, he testified at the coroner's inquest he did not know any of them."

STATE'S LYNCHING RECORD PRAISED

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN SESSION HERE ISSUES STATEMENT TO URGE LAW

National Baptist Union-Review

1-31-31

Nashville, Tenn.

Pride in the clean record of Tennessee in the matter of mob violence in 1930 and determination to uphold the ouster bill to come before the state legislature which provides automatic suspension of officers who fail to protect prisoners from lynching were the main items in a pronouncement issued by the recently organized Tennessee Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, member of the general interracial commission headquarters staff praised Southern newspapers for the stand many of them are taking against the lynching evil. In her opinion the attitude of many Southern newspapers has brought about the sentiment against lynching on any grounds and has done much to educate the public to the fact that lynching is an evil that should be dealt with solely on the basis that it is a crime.

Representative Tennessee women who signed the pronouncement Saturday, are Mrs. Clay Stephens, Mrs. Charlton Rogers, Miss Estelle Haskin, Mrs. J. P. Harvill and Miss Louise Young.

"We, a group of Tennessee women," the resolution said, "express our gratitude that out of the twenty-one lynchings in the United States in 1930 nineteen of which were in the South, not one occurred in Tennessee. This could not be said except for the heroic action of individuals in Bolivar, Union City and Lawrenceburg who prevented impending crime and lawlessness. It is with special pride that we call attention to the fact that in one instance it was a woman who withstood the mob.

"Since our immediate responsibility is for our own state we endorse the ouster bill to be presented by the Tennessee Interracial commission to the state legislature, which provides automatic suspension of officers who fail to perform their duties in the safeguarding from mob violence all prisoners in their custody," the resolution concluded.

Nashville Globe.

MOB MINDED AMERICA

Up in Schafer, North Dakota, last week a mob of eighty men took Charles Bannon, 22-year-old white youth, out of the hands of the law and lynched him. According to reports he was "hanged from a bridge." The story of the lynching reads just like hundreds of other stories about the lynching of poor helpless Negroes. One excerpt is as follows: "The men, all masked and some of them armed, battered down the jail door. The leaders asked Depurty Sheriff Peter S. Hallan for the prisoner. Upon his refusal they overpowered him, broke into Bannon's cell and departed with him in automobiles, first tying up Sheriff F. A. Thompson, who was aroused by the noise." Informer

And so, at the close of the first month of the year of our Lord, 1931, we have this picture: Two people have been lynched, one a white man and one a Negro. One was in Missiouri and the other in North Dakota. In one a temple of education, which in America we regard as the greatest security of a free people, was used as the funeral pyre. In both cases nothing was done about it.

Gradually lynching has left its traditional moorings in the South and flown to all parts of the nation. Discussing this phase of the Schafer lynching the other day one Houston daily said editorially that lynching has become our national disgrace. Gradually, too, as the lynchings for January show, there seems to be developing a tendency toward equalization between the number of whites and Negroes who are lynched. If the poet who sings to the effect that the laws of endless justice bind oppressor to oppressed is correct, we may look forward to the day (if lynching is not destroyed) when, because of greater population, more white people will be lynched than Negroes. Certainly the mob in Schafer has demonstrated that it does not respect the color of the victim's skin. Once this point is achieved, which opparently is already here, the scales of justice will begin their process of balancing and equalization.

2-7-31

On and on the mob will go. It has already made a funeral pyre of court houses and schools; it will next make one of the church. It has no limits, and shows itself in many forms. It may be seen lurking in the background of our utter disrespect for the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act. It is not entirely absent from our inability to convict murderers in America and give them their just deserts, as is done in countries like England. It plays its part in Negro disfranchisement. It is to be found in every place where war is being waged upon justice and law and order. The mob spirit is at the basis of the vitality and power of gangs and racketeers in our big cities. Houston, Texas

It is no longer a question of time, place, persons, or of circumstances or conditions. America has become mob minded.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

Negro Press (Southern.)

3391

"JUSTICE!"

Independent

5-29-31

Atlanta, Ga.

Theoretically the Negro citizen is entitled to equal justice under the law. His property and his life, again theoretically, are supposed to be inviolate until, through due process of justice they are put in jeopardy.

There is a wide gap, however, where theory ends and practice—particularly practice south of the Ohio River—begins. A Negro just has been convicted of murder in a Kentucky Court. While a jury took all of ten minutes to settle a sentence of death upon the prisoner, a mob surged beyond the doors of the court. Early in the day the mob had severely beaten the Negro attorney who had come to defend the accused.

Only a few days ago in a state farther south a similar scene was enacted. It might have been the same court, the same furous mob outside the doors, except that this time half a dozen Negroes were railroaded through travestied trials and sentenced to death. Perhaps just as well, for had they been acquitted they would have been lynched.

Regardless of the guilt or innocence of these blacks that have been sentenced to death, the processes of justice by which sentence was arrived at seem little better than legal lynching. And while this is not meant to be a sentimental brief for a downtrodden race, or anything of the kind, yet the white people on juries and in mobs might better prove their vaunted superiority by adult dignity and real justice.—From Cincinnati Inquirer.

LEGAL LYNCHINGS.

B. [illegible] Baskerville.

Independent

6-5-31

Atlanta, Ga.

Last week in Macon, Attorney Orville A. Park told the Kiwanis Club that he did not see much difference between a "judicial lynching" and one conducted by a mob. He was referring to the Elberton case where John Downer had just been sentenced to be electrocuted for an alleged attack upon a white woman.

Commenting upon the case, Attorney Park said: "I do not see much difference between that sort of lynching and a mob lynching. That Negro did not have a chance with that jury."

Attorney Park was quite right. Anybody who knows anything at all about the kind of justice that is meted out to Negroes in southern courts, particularly in small towns, knows full well, that where the issue is between white and colored people, the latter had about as much chance of receiving equal justice as a bleating lamb before a hungry wolf.

So confirmed is the custom in such cases, that you can guess the verdict even before the date of the trial is announced. An accusation against a Negro by a white person, particularly a white woman, is just about equivalent to a conviction. The accused Negro may be as innocent as an Angel in Heaven; all the facts and circumstances in the case may clearly indicate it, but to try to convince the average white jury with such evidence is like trying to drown a duck by pouring water on its back.

Take the case of the eight boys down in Scottsboro, Ala. Those boys are condemned to be executed on the unsupported testimony of two hobo white girls alleged to have been stealing a ride on a freight train. It happens that one of those eight boys is suffering with a serious case of two venerial diseases that makes it absolutely impossible for him to be guilty as accused. But what difference does that make with the average jury?

Those girls say he is guilty, and guilty he must be. He, therefore, along with the other seven boys is condemned to death!

When a Negro is the victim, the difference between a "legal lynching" and a "mob lynching" is simply this. In a "legal lynching" the victim is given what just about amounts to a "mock trial." He is tried before a jury of twelve "honest and upright" men! No "bias or prejudice" rests on their minds for, or against the defendant or the state! Not a bit of it! Their minds are perfectly "free and impartial" as to both. Yes siree! Why don't they hold up their right hand and swear to the truth of these facts? They surely do. So there is no question about it. No indeed!

When the case of the unfortunate victim, guilty or not guilty, is given to these twelve "honest and upright" men, they solemnly retire to the jury room. Now, after carefully considering all the testimony in the case, and after weighing very thoroughly all the facts and evidence thereof, these twelve "honest and upright" men return to the court room in about five or ten minutes with a verdict of guilty, without recommendations! This, of course, carries with it the death penalty, and can be considered hardly anything except a "legal lynching"

In a mob lynching, the mob does not resort to the hypocracy of a "mock trial." They just go on and put the victim to death, guilty or not guilty. That does not matter. Neither does it matter in a "legal lynching." But in a "mob lynching" the victim always comes to his death "at the hands of parties unknown." This is true even though it happens out in the public square, in the broad open daytime and in full view of the sheriff and all his deputies. Invariably the verdict of the coronor's jury is that the victim came to his death "at the hands of parties unknown."

When a Negro is accused of a crime he should be given a fair and impartial trial just like anybody else. If he is found guilty, he should be sentenced according to the law and the evidence in the case, and not according to prejudice.

The "mock trial" given to John Downer at Elberton was a shame and a disgrace to a State that claims to be civilized. It is quite probable that the jury before whom John Downer was tried was selected from among the very mob that had previously tried to lynch him. If not, then at least, it was selected from among and was surrounded by the inflamed local prejudices. In either event to present the case to such a jury was just like waving a red flag before an angry bull.

No wonder Attorney Park can see but little difference between "that sort of lynching and a mob lynching." In the past thirty years mobs have lynched more people in Georgia than in any other State in the Union. They have lynched more than 400 people, an average of about fourteen a year. No record, however, has been kept of "legal lynchings." Although I suspect that Georgia also has, the dubious honor of leading all the other States in this respect.

From the point of view of an accused Negro in the South, about the only difference between a mob and a jury is that the latter gives a little bit longer time to live. This extra time has enabled interested people and organizations to save the lives of many an innocent person from being ushered out of this world into eternity by a "legal lynching."

It is indeed deplorable that such conditions should exist in a so-called civilized country. But it will continue to exist as long as the people tolerate it and the courts permit it.

SOUTHERN WHITE WOMEN SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE MOB

Globe

"Moral Welfare" Tells Story of Anti-Lynching Crusade in Sjecial Interracial Number

9-25-31

COPIES AVAILABLE BY SENDING STAMPS TO COVER COST OF POSTAGE

Nashville, Tenn.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept.— The spectacular crusade against lynching now being waged by Southern white women is the subject of an interesting article in the recent interracial number of "Moral Welfare," monthly publication of the Presbyterian Church,

The article describes the inception of this movement in 1920, its reorganization in 1930 on a more effective basis, and its rapid spread throughout the South till in every state except two organizations have been set up, with definite practical programs of education and action.

Other interesting articles in the magazine are "The Rise and Fall of Judge Lynch," by Dr. James E. Clarke, "The Church and Race,, by Dr. S. M. Zwemer; and "The Negro in American Life." by Dr. Alain Locke.

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation with headquarters in the Standard Building, Atlanta, Ga., announces that a copy of this interesting magazine will be mailed to anyone requesting it and enclosing stamps to cover postage.

TENNESSEE'S SHAME.

4-23-31

The ink had hardly dried on the article expressing elation over the absence of a single lynching in Tennessee during the past year before the mob spirit broke out in all of its fury.

The usual cowardice that characterizes the mob was in evidence in one of the west Tennessee counties when a brave woman, the wife of the jailer, defied the mobbists and saved the life of the accused Negro prisoner. The other prisoner in a nearby county was not so fortunate, for the blood-thirsty mob encountered little resistance as they pulled the accused prisoner from the hands of the officers and killed him. The only evidence pointing to the guilt of the lynched man grew out of his having been run down by blood hounds.

The situation presents a sad commentary on the civilization of the progressive state of Tennessee. The conclusion has been reached by thoughtful observers that the activities of the mob are not based on a desire to avenge a wrong or to expiate a crime, but downright prejudice and hate for members of the Negro racial group is at the bottom of the motives of the defiant criminals who had just as soon lynch one Negro as another, and their main object in staging a lynching is designed to manifest their dislike for members of the minority racial group. Such has been evident time and time again when hoodlums, upon the slightest pretext and in the face of well organized courts where men charged with crimes can be tried and when the proof submitted at an orderly hearing is sufficient to convict there is positively no chance for the accused to escape the prescribed punishment. These mob members appear in the roles of criminals themselves as they destroy public property and take the lives of human beings, who in a majority of instances, are innocent of any crime whatsoever.

Objection on the part of certain states to the enactment of a federal law dealing with lynching is based on what they term an interference with state rights. Such objection is fallacious in its entirety and in view of the mob activities throughout our land, it becomes more and more evident that the only cure for lynching is the passing of a rigid law by our nation's law-making body that will enable the federal authorities to take hold of the community where a lynching is staged, bring the criminals into the federal courts, and if need be, surround them with United States soldiers as the courts proceed to try them and mete out the proper punishment.

The lynch-o-crats defy all constituted authority and unless prompt and determined action is taken to curb their activities, it will only be a matter of time until our government will be overthrown and lawlessness will reign in a manner that will prove far more disastrous than any situation that has ever existed in Mexico or Russia.

IT IS CONFESSED

Houston Informer

7-16-31

Finally one of the Sherman mobists confesses that he was guilty of rioting on May 9, 1930, when he and his fellow mobists burned the Grayson county court house to get George Hughes, whose guilt of the crime for which he was being tried, and for which the mob wanted to lynch him, has never been proved. The confessed rioter was given two years, which runs concurrently with a sentence for arson in connection with the court house burning.

While the life of George Hughes remains yet unatoned, it can no longer be said that he did not die as a result of a riot in which a beastly mob took the law into its own hands. The thing is confessed by one who took part in it.

THE MARYLAND MOB

Star of Zion

OUR valued contemporary, "The Richmond Christian Advocate," as all decent citizens throughout the country, is horrified at the unusual brutality and savagery of the Maryland mob. Of this atrocious outrage against civilization and Christianity The Advocate speaks as follows:

"It has been many years since a lynching occurred in the State of Virginia. Let all Christian citizens hope and pray the Commonwealth will never again be disgraced with such a pagan performance. Recently, however, a horrible crime of this nature was committed in the bounds of the Virginia Conference—Salisbury, Md. This crime is of such a horrible nature that it should arouse the entire State of Maryland and all good people should be sorry for the honorable citizens of Salisbury because a mob of hoodlums thus disgrace their city.

"It is hard to believe that a deed of such horrible details could happen anywhere in a civilized land. It would shame the pagans of the South Sea Islands or Swazi Land of Central Africa. A Negro killed his employer and then shot himself. He was carried to the hospital wounded. A mob of about two thousand men gathered to storm the hospital and took him from his bed and after hanging him in the bright daylight in the Court House Square cut down his body, saturated it with gasoline, tied it to an automobile, set it on fire and went dragging it through the city streets like a horde of pagan cannibals in the jungles.

12-17-31

"There is not the slightest excuse for this crime. The criminal was not run down and caught and killed trying to escape capture. He was already captured and was sick in the hospital. They had not the slightest doubt that a speedy trial would give him the extreme penalty of the law for his awful crime. It was only the bestiality of a mob that must have vent to its passion and no protest to a faulty justice that caused this crime against the name and honor of a State.

"The Name of the State of Maryla'nd and the Nation should be vindicated. A howling mob has trailed her fair name in the dirt of blood and bestiality and defied all her courts and laws. As long as such mobs go unpunished no government is secure and no home or life is safe.

Charlotte

"Governor Ritchie, of Maryland, is a national character and claims to be a statesman and an apostle of fair and secure government. This is a time for him to show it. Let him put all the machinery of his State in operation to clear its name and punish those who have defied its laws and besmirched its name. There is no use to say they cannot be identified and the charge proven. It was daylight and a crowd there. Where were the officers that they did not protest and at least get evidence of the crime and those who committed it? Somebody surely got the name of that auto. The eyes of the Nation are watching Governor Ritchie to see what he will do to save the name of Maryland and the South."

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

Negro Press. (Southern.)

3392

Mississippi's 452nd

Journal and Guide

OTHER southern states may be making some efforts to prevent lynchings, but not Mississippi, which remains one of the most mob-ridden states of the south. Since 1889 Mississippi has lynched the amazing total of 452 persons, 426 of whom were Negroes and only the state of Georgia exceeds this record.

The good Christian people of Inverness celebrated Sunday, March 22nd by adding another victim to its long list of savage outrages. Steve Wiley, a Negro, was alleged to have entered the home of a white woman, whose name was not mentioned in the dispatches, on Saturday night and attempted an attack upon her. The woman fired her revolver and frightened her assailant away, but when she fled from the house she was again accosted while running down the street, supposedly by the same man and succeeded in wounding the assailant. While the alleged assailant was being given medical treatment, he was placed under arrest by officers of the law. Secure in the hands of officers he was being taken to Indianola for safe-keeping, when he was taken from the officers, carried to a railroad trestle within the city and lynched. The sheriff then proceeded to remove the body and announce, in the usual prefunctory manner, that an investigation would be made. And so the chapter closes on another of the lynching parties for which the state of Mississippi is famous.

4-4-31

There is absolutely no doubt, had the law been permitted to take its course in this case, what the outcome would have been. But the courts of Mississippi do not exist to try these cases and the indication is that there are no efforts being made by anyone from Governor Bilbo down to transfer cases of this nature to the jurisdiction of the courts. This case shows conclusively the utter indifference on the part of the authorities. In the town of Inverness everybody knows each other; the sheriff knew that a lynching was in the air, but no definite effort was made to protect the prisoner. The dispatches indicate that the prisoner was taken without any resistance on the part of the officers and that he was lynched and nobody was recognized. Nobody was arrested and nobody will be because this does not happen in the state of Mississippi.

Norfolk, Va.

In the face of such official indifference on the part of state officials, there is no other remedy save the intervention of the Federal Government. And that is just why we need a national anti-lynching law which will protect a state like Mississippi from itself and the country from the antics of savages.

Editor's Note: Since the above editorial was written Mississippi has added another—the 453rd lynching to its record. On March 29th

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Eli Johnson, Negro, was shot to death by a mob near Redwood, Miss.

CAROLINA WOMEN JOIN WAR ON JUDGE LYNCH

Tuskegee Messenger

Joining the women of other southern states in a new offensive against lynching, a group of representative South Carolina women met in Charleston, recently, went on record with a vigorous denunciation of mob violence, and requested all the women's organizations in the state to unite for the extirpation of lynching.

1-28-31

Nine religious denominations and six civic organizations were represented in the meeting, which was presided over by Mrs. C. P. McGowan, a member of Charleston's oldest families, and chairman of the State Interracial Commission. A committee headed by Mrs. McGowan was appointed to extend the organization throughout the state. The resolutions adopted were as follows:

Tuskegee Inst, Ala

"1. We, as southern women representing churches and civic organizations, deeply deplore the rise in the tide of mob violence which had receded so notably since the beginning of the present century.

"2. We abhor and repudiate the use of the expression protection for the white women of the South, as a cloak for mob violence.

"3. We urge the adoption of some uniform methods by the southern states in the prevention of lynching; through the action of governors and other officials, through the passage of suitable laws, and through the upbuilding of public sentiment to remove this stain from our boasted civilization.

"4. We recommend that South Carolina women join the other southern states in a south-wide movement of women for the extirpation of lynching, and request that these resolutions or others of similar import be presented for endorsement to all local and state groups of women, civic or religious."

Representing the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames was present and told of the new movement against lynching inaugurated by a South-wide group of women meeting in Atlanta on November 1. Following plans formulated at that meeting, representative women of Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and now, South Carolina, have publicly pledged their support to the effort and are organizing for vigorous action. The women of the other states of the South will be enlisted as rapidly as possible.

Two Men Can Stop A Lynching Says White Minister

5-14-31

Houston, Texas

New Orleans, La.—(ANP)—"In every community there are two or three white men who can veto any intended mob violence," declared Dr. L. D. Patterson, a white minister from Talladega, Alabama, in an address delivered before the annual conference of the general missionary council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, here Thursday morning.

Continuing, Dr. Patterson said: "It is the duty of the ministry to keep in touch with these men so that their influence might be used in the right direction when the emergency arises," and cited an instance in Montgomery, Alabama, where a prayer offered in the courtroom, as a mob milled about the corridors during the trial of a Negro charged with a criminal attack upon a white woman, had averted mob violence.

The entire session was devoted to discussing the lynching probiem and the ministers were urged to use their influence in stamping out mob violence in the south.

One of the outstanding addresses delivered at the session Wednesday night, devoted to interracial activities, was that of Dr. W. Y. Bell, of the Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Bell urged the white citizens to abandon the "patronizing paternalism" and to substitute for it "encouragement of racial pride tempered by Christian virtues."

The need of a more sympathetic cooperation between the races was stressed by the speaker who pointed out that "the communists have already made gestures toward my people urging them to make a common cause in the United States."

"Except their education," said Dr. Bell, "I shudder to think of the future of my people in this country. The most immediate thing to be done for the Negro by the white man is to give the Negro a chance to improve his economic condition and to give him a place in the new industrial order of the South."

Students And The Mob.

Journal & Guide

From The Chicago Defender

3-14-31

The announcement that white students of Missouri are taking the lead in the effort to suppress mob violence, not only in that state but throughout the country, is an interesting and significant item on mobocracy. Students who have, from early historical times, played an important part in molding of public opinions, are the logical ones to start a campaign against the worst form of recreation ever allowed to flourish in a civilized country.

Norfolk, Va.

After all a mob is a monstrosity in our social order, and should be treated as such. To ignore it is to encourage it. To refuse to fight it bitterly is to give free rein to the mob instinct to maim and mutilate, all of which helps to create an appetite for more vicious orgies with each outbreak. It is dangerous not only to the black populace of the nation whose members furnish a great majority of mob victims, but it has its repercussions in such lynchings of white men has happened recently in North Dakota.

The white individual or organization that fails to take proper cognizance of the menace of the mob is breaking down the very defenses which are set up to protect that individual or organization from mobs. American students should know this and should work to break up mob atrocities through a constant warfare such as students are capable of waging.

This does not relieve other white groups or individuals. All American people, black and white, and of all classes must fight lynching and must fight it seriously if they hope to bring about a semblance of order in an otherwise chaotic state!

MISSISSIPPIANS PROTEST AGAINST RECENT RACE VIOLENCE

Globe
5-1-31
Nashville, Tenn.

WHITE WOMEN ASK THAT JUSTICE BE THEIR PROTECTOR INSTEAD OF THE MOB

Jackson, Miss., April:—Asking that justice be their protector, instead of the mob—"that howling, cowardly creature of the jungle,"—the administrative committee of the Association of Mississippi Women for the Prevention of Lynching has given to the press a vigorous protest against recent lynchings in this state.

Signed by the eleven members of the administrative committee, all of them women of prominence in Mississippi, the protest is as follows:

"There was a lynching in Inverness, Miss., on March 21, 1931. There was another in Warren county near Vicksburg on March 28. Against these, we, the undersigned committee, administrative of the Mississippi Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching, do solemnly protest.

"Mississippi women know that the heart, the life, and the sacred honor of our men are pledged to our protection; but we plead with all our hearts that we may find that protection behind justice, swift, clear-eyed, and calm, and not behind lynching, that howling, cowardly creature of the jungle that would pull from over our heads and those of our children the sacred temple of law."

The statement is signed by Mrs. Ernest Moore, Mrs. L. W. Alford, Mrs. H. L. Talbert, and Mrs. H. D. Corley, Clarksdale; Mrs. W. T. Hegman, Holly Bluff; Mrs. A. J. Aven, Clinton; Mrs. Lucy H. McKee, Mrs. J. Morgan Stevens, Mrs. T. D. Bratton, Mrs. C. H. Alexander, and Miss Margaret Lackey, Jackson, administrative committee.

The Mississippi Association was organized some weeks ago under the auspices of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation as one branch of a South-wide association of white women pledged to fight lynching by every means in their power.

ANTI-LYNCH SENTIMENT GROWING

There are indications that the leash on the lynch hounds is being tightened. The process is slow and the means inadequate but the trend and direction of sympathy shows an improving aspect.

Reporter

Recently several states have made efforts at enacting anti-lynch legislation. The success has been more or less encouraging since the advance toward something tangible shows improvement over previous efforts. The State of Indiana has written a law in its statutes whereby the relatives of lynch victims may recover from the county in which the lynching occurs and the sheriff of the county must answer for the conduct of his office and show cause why he should not be removed from office for neglect of duty.

4-25-31

There are other preventative forces at work from which there is issuing a better general sentiment against lynching and urging a promptness on the part of officials to take preventative measures in time.

Birmingham, Ala.

There are incidents and outbreaks now and then that cause one to doubt that any progress is being made, but a comprehensive view of the situation gives the verdict in favor of substantial improvement.

Bad as it is there is some virtue in seeing the better side of it. That virtue is not wholly lacking in its good effects on the fighting morale of those who are engaged in combatting the evil.

MOB-LAW'S DANGER AGAIN EXPOSED

A few weeks ago a mob attempted to seize an alleged Negro attacker at Marshall and give him either a neck-tie party or a modern barbecuing, a la Dixie, on the grounds that he was accused of trying to outrage a white woman and of slashing her with a knife when she resisted his bestial attack.

Informer

The situation became very tense in this East Texas city and only the determined stand of Sheriff John Sanders, his deputies and some of the leading citizens of the town prevented a lynching bee and possibly other untoward interracial trouble.

The arrested Negro, found by the officers in close proximity to where the alleged attack was supposed to have taken place, was said to possess a knife, and forthwith he was adjudged the guilty culprit by the mobbists.

4-25-31

The youthful Negro was rushed to prison and the following day certain disappointed members of the mob resorted to a ruse and telephoned the peace officers to bring the Negro youth to the girl's house for identification.

Houston, Texas.

When the officers complied with this request (a very precarious thing to do under such strained circumstances and in the face of the mobocratic demonstration the preceding night), an attempt was made to take the Negro away from the officers at the home of the supposed victim, but the officers held their ground, protected their prisoner and returned him safely to jail.

The Harrison County grand jury recently adjourned and failed to return an indictment against this alleged Negro attacker and rapist, on the grounds that there was not sufficient evidence against him to warrant even his arrest.

At the time that the crime was supposed to have been committed, The Houston Defender, in keeping with its policy of getting and printing the real news, carried a story telling of the incident and how the girl, a victim of a domestic row at her home located near a Negro neighborhood, conceived the attack story either to divert attention from the family brawl or to "start something" with any unfortunate Negro as the victim.

When it is borne in mind that the supposed attack, as reported to the police officers, was alleged to have been perpetrated near the campus of Bishop College, a Negro institution of learning and right in a thickly populated black district, much devilment could have resulted if the sheriff had not taken the proper precautions to forestall and prevent any mobocratic outbreak.

Somehow or the other, it appears that the peace officers and several of the leading white citizens of Marshall, being somewhat acquainted with the reputation of the complaining witness and learning the facts surrounding the "case," did not place much credence in the attack story.

Not only did the retiring grand jury fail to indict the Negro youth held under arrest for the alleged attack, but he has been released from prison.

Here again is shown the grave danger of mob-violence, for if the sheriff of Harrison County had been like some of the spineless conniving sheriffs in other Southern communities who have permitted mobs to take prisoners from them and lynch them, sometimes on the court house lawn, an innocent Negro would have been mobbed, the state disgraced, the law trampled under foot and society humiliated, but the lynching bee would have been a closed incident so far as arresting and convicting any of the lynchers.

Many innocent, helpless and hapless Negroes in the South have been lynched, both legally and illegally, for crimes they never committed, simply because some complaining witness charged that some "big, black, burly Negro" attacked her or made an effort to do so; resulting in the first stray or strange Negro found being either lynched or railroaded to the gallows, electric chair or penitentiary.

JUDGE STAPLETON TAKES ISSUE WITH JUDGE PARK

5-2-31

Atlanta, Ga.

We will make no effort to go into the question of guilt or innocence of the Negro accused of rape at Elberton, Ga., and convicted in less time than it takes to tell it, last Tuesday. We did not hear the evidence and are, therefore, incompetent to pass upon the merits of the case; and we'll concern ourselves about the fairness and impartiality of the trial.

It appears from newspaper reports that Judge Orville A. Park, one of the best lawyers in Georgia, in addressing the Macon Kiwanis Club, said that the conviction of John Downer in Elbert County for assault was judicial lynching. To this statement Judge Stapleton takes issue and says there was no excitement at the trial and no foundation for Judge Park's statement. Let us see whether the accused was tried under normal conditions or not, without threats or excitement, under normal conditions.

John Downer's case would have been set for trial at a regular term of Elbert Superior Court and not in special session. No soldiers would have been present to keep order and protect the prisoner against mob violence. His attorneys would have had ample time to prepare his defense and not have to go to trial after a few minutes' notice of appointment in open court. The court gave Downer less than a month, the usual time, to prepare to meet his God. If there were no threats and no excitement, why rush the case out of the natural order of court procedure? Who demanded a speedy trial? If no excitement, why put the state to the expense of 200 soldiers to suppress an expectant mob? A man is entitled to fair and impartial trial by a jury of his peers with counse

and time to prepare his case with compulsory process to bring his witnesses into court and to be faced by his accuser. Public sentiment, a speedy trial and conviction could not wait for the law to take its regular course, and Judge Park calls the trial and conviction "judicial lynching."

Judge Stapleton, of the City Court, takes issue—a rather unusual thing was the appointment of a state prosecuting officer to defend the prisoner. But all this may be normal and without excitement.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

Negro Press, Southern.

3393

Lynchings and Their Cure

Christian Index
12-10-31
Jackson, Tenn.

There is serious food for thought in the recent report made by the commission of nine Southerners appointed to study lynchings. In the South lynching was first used as a punishment for the nameless crime against a white woman. For this offense no punishment was deemed too severe; often the victim was tortured before being lynched. But the reflex action of the lynchings on the mobs themselves was most unhappy, and by 1892 we had 225 lynchings, many of them in the South. Today the victims of mob law are sometimes innocent. The report of the commission shows that a possibility exists as to the guilt of thirteen persons who were lynched during 1930. Now, instead of lynching being a punishment for the one crime, less than one-fourth of the cases since 1890 have been for assaults upon white women. Such low motives as removing a damaging witness or an offensive political move have caused men to meet death at the hands of mobs. Another sinister phase of the lynching problem is the fact that leaders of mobs are known in their communities but are seldom indicted by the grand juries. It is also found that lack of education and low economic status increase the danger of lynchings. That mob justice breaks down respect for the law and dependence upon it is plainly evident. Communities which supinely permit armed mobs to commit such crimes and go unpunished are soon at the mercy of any ignorant group which chooses to take the law into its hands. The menace which this crime holds over civilization itself is clearly to be seen. The commission has done a notable service. It will follow its survey of lynchings by making an investigation of the laws affecting this crime for the purpose of drafting effective anti-lynching laws.

—*Nashville Christian Advocate*

Lynchings-1931
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AMERICAN
ABERDEEN, S. D.

FEB 1 1931

MOB JUSTICE BROUGHT HOME

The people of the north are inclined to criticise the southerners for their frequent lynchings.

Last week, however, a community in North Dakota yielded to savage instincts and hung a confessed murderer on the eve of his appearance in court when he was to have been given his final hearing and sentence.

Moreover, the lynching in North Dakota was less justified than ~~many of~~ the southern mob executions, since there was every reason to believe that the prisoner would have been given a life sentence, which is the maximum penalty for murder in North Dakota.

This winter has witnessed an unusual number of occurrences of this nature, some of which have been equally as revolting and cruel as the primitive justice of the most savage barbarians.

And while they indicate that even the most advanced types of humanity have but the thinnest veneer of civilization, they also indicate that there must be something wrong—something inadequate—with the courts established by so-called civilization.

The burning to death of the Negro in Missouri several weeks ago, it is said, was brought about by the fact that the victim of mob violence was an ex-convict who had been released before he had served his full time and that, moreover, his former offense had been of the same nature that cost him his life at the hands of the Missouri mob. Certainly the fact that those charged with the responsibility of dispensing justice and protecting society had been lax, incensed the community and turned the dial of civilization back through almost countless centuries.

Both North and South Dakota have abolished the death penalty for murder, but the action of the mob last Thursday is no more nor less than a protest against the impotency of the state to deal adequately with such heinous deeds of infamy as young Bannon committed. As a matter of fact, on the day following the lynching of Bannon, a bill was introduced in the North Dakota legislature providing for the reinstating of the death penalty. And until all of America's statutes are revised and improved to meet the demands of society, and protect it more completely, such summary, disgraceful and primitive reprisals as we have witnessed this winter will continue to recur with steadily increasing frequency.

This is no brief for mob justice. In fact it is shocking and almost unbelievable that it should be brought home to us here in the supposedly peaceful countrysides of the Dakotas. We must face the fact, however, that murder is yet, and has always been, regarded as an unpardonable sin and that a murderer forfeits his rights to life.

Mob violence is evidence enough that this grim law of life still obtains. If the courts refuse to recognize it, the people will take a hand, bunglingly perhaps, but nevertheless summarily and completely.

DEVILS LAKE, N. D.
JOURNAL

JAN 29 1931

The Bannon Lynching

Lynching in North Dakota, or any place in the northern tier of states, is rather rare. Some time ago the Journal made a comparison between this state and Missouri, where a short time ago a negro was chained to the roof of a school house and burned to death. The Journal complimented the North Dakota tendency to permit the law to take its own course.

All that now is changed. A murderer has been lynched in this state, and of course the entire country will wonder what is happening in the northwest.

We do not condone the Bannon lynching. However, in view of the tense feelings of the people in the Schafer community we need not be surprisd at it. There is no reasoning with a mob in frenzy.

A peculiar coincident in connection with the Bannon lynching is that it took place in the one town of North Dakota named after the governor's father, and this, of course, will be "played up" more or less in the nation's newspapers.

DAVENPORT, IA.
TIMES

JAN 30 1931

A NORTHERN LYNCHING BEE

North Dakota is one of the ~~few~~ states which does not impose capital punishment. Some few years ago its people displayed their humanitarianism by doing away with "official murder" as executions are styled by those who protest the extreme penalty.

White Press, (Northern.)

So confronted with the perpetrator of a series of gruesome murders, a mob of 80 men battered down the doors of the jail, in which the confessed murderer was confined, and hanged him from a bridge. An excess of sentimentality has its fruit in an excess of bestiality.

Lynch law is defended in the south on the grounds that the negro is a social problem; that white womanhood can be protected only by the atrocities which indulge the sadistic element of such as take part in them. But that defense cannot be offered in mitigation of the action of the Schaefer mob.

Lynchings are a disgrace to our civilization. Our national complacency toward it indicts us in the eyes of the entire world.

NEW YORK WORLD

JAN 31 1931

THE NORTH DAKOTA LYNCHING

The State of North Dakota begins the new year very badly with a lynching at the end of the first month. Charles Bannon, about to be arraigned for murder, was taken from the McKenzie County Jail by a mob of about eighty men and hanged from a bridge. The deputy sheriff in charge of the prisoner was overpowered, and Sheriff Thompson himself was securely bound.

There was no excuse or palliation for this grim deed. Bannon's crime—the killing of an entire family of six persons—was so shocking that there was small chance of his escaping due penalty at law. For greater safety he had been kept in the Williams County Jail until a few days ago, when he was transferred to the jail at Schafer, in the jurisdiction where the crime was committed. He was to have been arraigned yesterday. It is supposed that farmer neighbors of the murdered family composed the greater part of the lynching party.

North Dakota's record in the matter of lynchings is nothing to boast of—the present one ~~is the twelfth~~ since 1889. As Governor Shafer says, this mob crime injures the reputation of the state for law and order. The chief law officers of the state are on the ground. The leaders of the mob should be sought out and promptly made to expiate their offense against the honor of the state.

SUN
Pittsburg Kans.

JAN 31 1931

A Bad Start for 1931.

A North Dakota mob went into action this week and lynched a fiend who had slain six persons. ~~The mob~~ took the prisoner from jail after overpowering officers and hanged him from a bridge.

The action of the North Dakota mob was no worse than the action of the Maryville, Mo., mob which burned a negro fiend this month. The Maryville mob was more savage than the mob in North Dakota. But the law was given a terrific blow in the one place just as in the other.

This year of 1931 is getting off to an awfully bad start in lynchings. It follows a very noticeable improvement in the lynching record in recent years.

ADMIT LYNCHED NEGRO GUILTLESS

Daily Worker
1-30-31

School Teacher Was Killed by Student

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 28.—Reports are steadily gaining credence here which serve to strengthen the belief in the absolute innocence of Raymond Gunn, Negro worker who was brutally lynched at the stake in this city two weeks ago, of the crime charged against him.

New York

As the Daily Worker pointed out in reporting this brutal lynching, there was not the slightest shred of evidence to support the allegation that Gunn was the murderer of the young school teacher whose body was found in the school house, which was subsequently used as a pyre for one of the most outrageous crimes against the working class.

It now develops that a white pupil is suspected of murdering the school teacher in revenge for a scolding.

In the meantime, the white business men who lead the mob which murdered Gunn are in an orgy of fear following reports of preparations for reprisals on the part of Negro workers. Several of these mob leaders are reported to have left the city, even though assured that the bosses' courts and the state government would do nothing to punish them.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
CHRONICLE

JAN 31 1931

North Dakota Does Not Execute Murderers So the Mob Does It

ZEALOUS ADVOCATES of the abolition of capital punishment may find something worth considering in the news from North Dakota. That State provides life imprisonment for murder. North Dakotans do not execute their convicted murderers. Instead, they lynch them hang them without trial.

A twenty-two-year-old youth who confessed the murder of a farmer, his wife and four children in order to steal hogs, which the murderer was detected in selling, was locked in a cell to await trial.

Trial and conviction would have meant life imprisonment at most. So a mob of eighty men invaded the jail, tied up the deputy in charge smashed the cell door and took the prisoner out and hanged him.

That the murderer's confession leaves no doubt of his guilt does not make the case any less a lynching. Lynching is lynching whether it is inflicted on a white youth in North Dakota or a black one in Texas.

But North Dakota is not in what might be called the "lynching belt." What can account for this outburst? In the lynching belt there is at least attempt at justification on the ground that terror of lynching by a mob is greater than fear of legal capital punishment.

We do not agree with this argument as an excuse for lynching. But at least it is offered and the crime against which it is usually supposed to be directed is of more or less frequent occurrence. But the murders of whole families are surely not so frequent in North Dakota as to require special deterrent measures outside the law to suppress them. This case merely showed that the people of North Dakota, no matter what their laws, do believe in capital punishment when they become sufficiently indignant as not to be satisfied with imprisonment.

We do not argue that the lynching would not have occurred if North Dakota had capital punishment. But we do believe that realization that the murderer would escape with his life had something to do with enraging the community to the point where it saddled a crime upon itself.

In view of the present efforts to remove the deterrence of capital punishment in California and make imprisonment the penalty for murder the North Dakota case deserves some thought.

ENTERPRISE
BURLINGTON, N. J.

FEB 4 1931

North Dakota Lynching

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The Increase In Lynchings

Some thirty educators and church leaders in the South issued on January 5 through the Fellowship of Reconciliation the following statement on lynching:

"Lynching is more than a crime. It boldly thwarts the most elementary ends of justice, constitutes a complete denial of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and represents anarchy in its most vicious and insolent form. It flagrantly strikes at the foundations of all organized social life and outrages every ideal of liberty.

"Although in recent years the number of lynchings has been diminishing, this year has seen a resurgence of this unspeakably brutal thing and an increase in the number of instances where officers have been unwilling or unable to protect alleged criminals from mob-murder. For this reason, we the undersigned, members of the advisory committee of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, are moved to assert, for ourselves and on behalf of many thousand American citizens, our determined and unqualified opposition to all forms of mob-violence in all possible situations.

"We call upon press, pulpit, and school, and every patriotic citizen to assist in arousing a resolute public opinion that will uphold the protecting arm of common justice and we insist upon the prosecution of every person who participates in any act of lynching and of every officer who in any manner condones it."

Information Service
1-31-31
New York, N.Y. Vol X, No. 5

DENOUNCE JIM CROW JUDGE

Daily Worker

Boston Meeting Hits Lynching

3-9-31
New York, N.Y.

OSTON, Feb. [illegible]—A very enthusiastic mass meeting held in Fraternity Hall, Ruggles Building, Boston, Friday heard speakers of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights denounce the race discriminatory actions of Judge Ahearn and the Roxbury Court in the handling of the Dover case and others, and demanded the removal of Judge Ahearn from the Roxbury Court and the cessation of the discriminatory actions there.

The meting protested the brutal lynching of Raymond Gunn for a crime which he did not commit and demanded death to lynchers!

The meeting was held under the auspices of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights Local, an organization which stands on the program of Death to Lynchers and against all discrimination, and for the right of self-determination of the Negro majorities in the South.

Speakers at the meeting were: Eugene Gordon, Dr. Brown, J. W. McCarthy, J. W. Youngblood, president of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights here, was chairman.

The Boston LSNR is giving an entertainment and dance Thursday, Feb. 12, at Allied Arts Center, [illegible] Huntington Ave. to commemorate the life and work of Frederick Dougless.

RUTLAND, VT.
HERALD

MAR 19 1931

Attacking Lynch Law.

Formation of the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching is woman's answer to the thin argument that lynch law is essential to the safety of womanhood in regions having wide racial differences. It shows that women are skeptical of the sincerity of that excuse.

This association of prominent and representative women expresses humiliation at the attitude of the peace officers and characterizes lynching as a "greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other."

Active organizations of this kind in all states where lynch law is enforced with regularity and more zeal in the prosecution and punishment of lynchers would help curb such unlawful and brutalizing activities, but the most potent force in the impeachment of Judge Lynch would be speedy and sure justice in cases where lynch law is likely to take its course.

When the mob takes the law into its own hands it is subverting public prosecutor, jury and judge, because by its very act it is showing complete lack of confidence in all three. It is up to them to inspire confidence.

Lawyers can betray their clients into the murderous hands of the maddened mob by clutching at too many technicalities to save guilty men from just punishment. But it is a significant fact that few victims of lynch law have had the benefit of either trial by jury or of skilled counsel.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions

White Press, Northern.

3300

DEMOCRAT

Ft. Madison Ia.

JAN 14 1931

THE AFFAIR AT MARYVILLE, MO.

As might be expected, the principal topic of conversation yesterday was the action of the mob at Maryville, Mo., Monday in taking Raymond Gunn, a Negro, and burning him atop the school house which was the scene of his atrocious crime. That such an unthinkable thing could take place so near at home (Maryville is only about 30 miles south of Bedford, Iowa), is almost beyond comprehension.

The comment and reactions of a Missouri newspaper on this matter are interesting. Because of this, we are reproducing herewith the editorial comment in yesterday's edition of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat:

"Better than in the case of most lynchings are we able to understand exactly what was in the mind of the mob that took the life of the Negro, Raymond Gunn, near Maryville, Mo.

"Just after school hours on a winter day, as the pleasant holiday season approached, the youthful teacher, Miss Velma Colter, was attacked and beaten to death with a club in the wayside schoolhouse in which daily she had guided her little flock. Rage because of the horrid crime filled the neighborhood.

"When Gunn, an ex-convict, was arrested and it became known that he had confessed, the menace of community violence became so great that special measures were taken to protect the miserable prisoner. He was hidden in strong jails outside of Nodaway county, conveyed surreptitiously to his examination held in secret and a detachment of the state's troops was posted as a guard in aid of the civil officers.

"Monday was the date on which he was to be presented in court for arraignment and at 9:30 a. m., when the sheriff appeared outside the jail, conducting him to the court house, the Negro was swept from the officer's hands by a throng that had collected on the lawn. The mob took its victim to the desecrated Garrett district school house, two miles away, chained him on the roof to which he was hoisted and he perished when the structure was fired and burned to the ground, after the furniture had been removed.

"If ever a lynching tragedy were justified, this might be supposed to be justified. The impression made in remote localities by the hideous offense being what it is, the frenzy that might seize those near-by, the friends and acquaintances of the young school teacher, can be appreciated.

"But, of course, it was not justified, nor is mob murder ever justified, even under circumstances so extreme. And why did the mob leaders burn the school house, unless to add more of the merely spectacular to what they had first resolved on doing? To the shame of one abominable crime has been added the disgrace to Missouri of another lawless slaying and the disgrace also of what appears to be a particularly deliberate crime of arson.

"The law, too, has its implacable rage for just such guilt as was that of this man. Why was he not reserved for the fate which, as from the moment guilt was established, it was so plain nothing could avert?

"As to why he was not so reserved, a forceful accounting should be demanded of the sheriff and those deputies he was supposed to have ever in readiness; of the armed military contingent as well. Extraordinary precautions were observed during the clandestine legal preliminaries. Where were the greater precautions which a tyro would know to be necessary on the occasion of his public appearance before the bench?"

The elements which constitute the factors of mob psychology are strange. Mobs, such as the one at Maryville Monday, are usually composed of individuals known as law abiding citizens. One person in discussing the affair yesterday made the statement, which is without doubt true, that there are hundreds of persons in the mob who gave their approval to the burning of the Negro who claim to be opponents of legal capital punishment.

Regardless of what one may say, mob action and mob violence are not to be upheld and approved. When a crime has been committed, the law should be allowed to have its course. It may be argued there are many delays in the law, all of which is true, and that there are many miscarriages of justice, which likewise is true. But as one wrong does not right another wrong, neither does one crime right another crime. Look at it any way you wish, the members of that mob at Maryville Monday have human blood on their hands, and they stand indicted by public opinion for murder.

When one realizes what took place at Maryville he is justified in wondering just how far mankind has actually progressed in the pathway of civilization.

FORT WAYNE, IND.
JOURNAL GAZETTE

JAN 1 1 1931

nter Mobs

bill will go into the present session of the Indiana legislature purposed to more sharply discourage lynching than the laws as at present seem calculated to do. This proposal gets its rise from the dreadful affair at Marion, last summer, when two negroes were taken from the Grant county jail and stretched up in the grounds which surround the cour house in that city.

The bill proposed for enactment wil provide among other things that sheriff who permits a prisoner to b

taken from his custody by a mob and lynched shall forthwith be removed from office by the governor and held in suspense of his authority until he shall have established that he was helpless to prevent the mob lawlessness and entirely blameless. That puts the burden on the sheriff and relieves the state of initiative to prove anything. The bill also provides that next of kin may recover heavy damages from the county in which any lynching may take place.

Failure of any consequences to pursue the sheriff of Grant county because of the Marion lynching and a verdict of acquittal for the first of a half dozen men arrested for that mob affair has impelled the effort to procure a stronger anti-lynching statute. The enactment of such a law as proposed might have

strong deterrent effect. But is it statute law that is most needed in such instances? Why should a mob be permitted to have its way in any civilized community? Now, while the crowds in the streets about the jail and court house at Marion that tragic August night summer were large, it has not been made to appear from any account given that the number of them actually engaged in the lynching was great.

We feel sure that in Marion, as we feel sure would be the fact in almost any Indiana community, the proportion of the intelligent and responsible inhabitants who would not only not participate in a lynching but to whom such mad lawlessness in any case would be repugnant is far greater than the proportion of them who would be active or indifferent. If there must be a mob bent on lynching the law of the commonwealth, let there be another mob bent that there shall be nothing of the kind. In other words, mob eat mob and the lawless mob will be eaten. There might be a conflict, but we much doubt it. Good citizens of stout heart do not hesitate to join a chase for the capture of bandits. They freely offer their services to the authorities without waiting to be deputized. Why should not citizens of that type rally to support of authority when a mob threatens to make a ghastly jest of the law and tragedy of justice?

If that could become the moral rule in the civic mind, the lawless mob would be not only in immediate danger, but it would be certain of later and more dire consequence. There would then be no escaping the processes of justice because nobody can be found who is willing to testify and no miscarriage of justice because jurors stand in fear to convict. There is no word to be said against any purpose to make the laws more effectual to deal with lynchers and lynchings. Much is to be said for creating in any community a state of mind which would make lynching intolerable and the onset of the mob a futility.

The dual theory of the bill now to be brought is that a sheriff who permits a mob to take and lynch his prisoner will automatically close himself out of office and that the county in which such assassination of the law is permitted will have to bear the cost of it in heavy damages. These considerations will not weigh a feather with the mob. They will weigh heavily with the sheriff of the county and heavily with the taxpayers who will be mulcted. The theory appears to be well worth trying.

The theory of the counter mob, it seems to us, has also great merit. That is a presumption that the decent element of citizenship will strive for the supremacy of law and the repute of its community.

DEMOCRAT

St. Louis, Mo.

JAN 13 1931

SHAME PILED ON SHAME IN NODAWAY.

Better than in the case of most lynchings are we able to understand exactly what ~~was in the~~ mind of the mob that took the life of the Negro, Raymond Gunn, near Maryville, Mo.

Just after school hours on a winter day, as the pleasant holiday season approached, the youthfu teacher, Miss Velma Colter, was attacked and beaten to death with a club in the wayside schoolhouse in which daily she had guided her little flock. Rage because of the horrid crime filled the neighborhood.

When Gunn, an ex-convict, was arrested and it became known that he had confessed, the menace of community violence became so great that special measures were taken to protect the miserable prisoner. He was hidden in strong jails outside of Nodaway County, conveyed surreptitiously to his examination held in secret and a detachment of the state's troops was posted as a guard in aid of the civil officers.

Monday was the date on which he was to be presented in court for arraignment and at 9:30 a. m., when the Sheriff appeared outside the Jail, conducting him to the Courthouse, the Negro was swept from the officer's hands by a throng that had collected on the lawn. The mob took its victim to the desecrated Garrett district schoolhouse, two miles away, chained him on the roof to which he was hoisted and he perished when the structure was fired and burned to the ground, after the furniture had been removed.

If ever a lynching tragedy were justified, this might be supposed to be justified. The impression made in remote localities by the hideous offense being what it is, the frenzy that might seize those near-by, the friends and acquaintances of the young school teacher, can be appreciated.

But, of course, it was not justified, nor is mob murder ever justified, even under circumstances so extreme. And why did the mob leaders burn the schoolhouse, unless to add more of the merely spectacular to what they had first resolved on doing? To the shame of one abominable crime has been added the disgrace to Missouri of another lawless slaying and the disgrace also of what appears to be a particularly deliberate crime of arson.

The law, too, has its implacable rage for just such guilt as was that of this man. Why was he not reserved for the fate which, as from the moment guilt was established, it was so plain nothing could avert?

As to why he was not so reserved, a forceful accounting should be demanded of the Sheriff and those deputies he was supposed to have ever in readiness; of the armed military contingent as well. Extraordinary precautions were observed during the clandestine legal preliminaries. Where were the greater precautions which a tyro would know to be necessary on the occasion of his public appearance before the bench?

ST. LOUIS, MO.
POST DISPATCH

JAN 13 1931

THE LAW TURNS ITS BACK.

Missouri has had six lynchings in the last 10 year but in none of them ha[illegible]turned its back wi such emphasis as it did yesterday at Maryville.

Following the murder, Dec. 16, of Miss Veln Colter, a young school teacher, by Raymond Gun feeling has been intense at Maryville. Gunn is sa to have confessed to county officers that he attacke Miss Colter at the lonely school house four mil in the country, and that when she resisted he kille her with a club. Sheriff England took the prisone for safekeeping to St. Joseph, and when his wher abouts became known and people from the Maryvill neighborhood began to assemble at St. Joseph th Sheriff moved Gunn to Kansas City. Gov. Caulfiel was well aware of the situation. He sought to prevent an outbreak by dispatching militia to Maryvill Troops went to the armory near the Courthouse an remained there subject to the Sheriff's call. Thi was the situation up to yesterday morning. It wa certain that yesterday morning, when Gunn, who ha been secretly returned from Kansas City, was to b arraigned for trial, the supreme test of the law woul come. Nevertheless, when the prisoner was brough out by a deputy sheriff, a waiting mob descende upon the pair, took possession of Gunn, and starte on the four-mile march to the schoolhouse where the Negro was chained to the ridgepole of the roof and [illegible]ed with the building. The law simply turned its back. Sheriff England neither resisted the mob nor called upon Adjutant-General Adams, who was waiting a block from the courthouse with 60 armed militiamen.

Of the guilt of the lynched man there is apparently no doubt. The county authorities assert that after he was arrested he not only confessed the crime but told them where they would find the school teacher's wrist watch and other objects, which were found exactly as he had described. The law is entirely competent to punish such an atrocity. To bring the prisoner back to the scene of the crime for trial, and then not to call on the militia to protect him, was to deliver the man into the vengeful hands of the frenzied people. That was just what happened, an invitation to lawlessness that disgraces the State.

JOURNAL

Madison, Wis.

JAN 13 1931

Lynchers Should be Prosecuted

THE citizens of Maryville, Mo., who burned to death a Negro probably do not realize how great a blot they have placed upon the nation.

The negro had committed a revolting crime in the outraging and murder of a young woman schoolteacher. His punishment, however, should have been by the state. Lynch law is but the act of a mob. Resort to it is a menace to the commonwealth. Punishment for crime is the duty of the state. When citizens take it upon themselves without court or jury to inflict punishment for alleged injuries, to society the avengers themselves become criminals.

Horror will be felt all through the United States because of the burning of the negro by a mob. More than this, other nations will see in the lynching evidence of lawlessness in the United States.

All persons in this country, no matter what the crime may be with which they are charged, have the right to a trial by court and jury. This is one of the safeguards against maladministration of the law imposed by the constitution.

That a person's color happens to be black does not make the offense of the members of the mob committing the lynching less reprehensible.

Confession by the criminal of the deeds for which he was burned to death also does not give any reason for citizens' taking the law into their own hands. The courts would have seen to it that the murderer was duly punished. A mob taking his life committed what, before the law is murder. The state of Missouri cannot afford to allow the lynchers to remain unpunished.

Lynch law is a relic of barbarism. A large majority of the people of this country are law-abiding and orderly; and opposed to such an atrocity as has been committed by some citizens of Missouri.

The time has come when any state where a lynching is committed should make every effort possible to punish those responsible for the unlawful deed.

Lynchings have been far too long tolerated in some states of this nation. Only through punishment of the lynchers, can some people be made to understand that participation in a lynching is a crime that merits severe sentences.

NEW YORK SUN

JAN 13 1931

A Missouri Lynching.

Nodaway county, ~~Missouri, where~~ a Negro was lynched yesterday for ~~[illegible] of~~ a white woman, is not in that section of its State which often has been described ironically as "more Southern than the South." It is in the northern tier of counties, just below the Iowa line and within a few miles of where the Missouri River separates Missouri from Kansas and Nebraska. Agriculturally it is one of the richest of all Missouri counties. It is dotted with thriving villages. Its school facilities are good. It boasts that its adult population is "100 per cent. English reading." In national elections it commonly gives a majority to the Republican ticket. Its capital, Maryville, is the seat of a State eachers' college. This town, incidentally, takes a place in recent literature as the scene of HOMER CROY'S "West of the Water Tower."

Any stranger driving along the highways of Nodaway county will be impressed by the evidences of thrift, prosperity and progress of this prairie region. It has a settled look. It has large and well-kept farmhouses, huge barns and silos. Its live stock discloses care in selection and breeding. Its villages are neat and orderly. It is a land with a population which holds itself in high esteem.

The lynching was deliberate. The assault and murder the mob sought to avenge were committed several weeks before the lynching. At the time of their perpetration the mob failed to get possession of the Negro. It awaited opportunity. Even after extraordinary precautions had been taken by the authorities to protect the prisoner, the lynchers behaved as if they were sure of a chance to carry out their plot. When it came they seized the man, marched him to the scene of crime, interrogated him as to the murder, chained him to the roof of the schoolhouse in which the woman was slain, poured gasoline on floors and walls, chopped holes in the roof to insure ventilation and then set fire to the structure, waiting quietly until building and Negro

had been destroyed.

Additional deputy sheriffs and two squads of militiamen had been told off to assist in guarding the prisoner, yet this cold-blooded mob accomplished its purpose without loss

r a man. What will the authorities of Missouri do to vindicate their State from the reproach of this ghastly affair?

Lynchings - 1931
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

UPON A LYNCHED NEGRO MAY HANG NEXT PRESIDENT

Chicago

Maryland Is Filled with Political Dynamite.

Tribune

12/28/31

BY TOM PETTEY.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 27.—[Special.]—Maryland is packed with dynamite and the spark to set it off may be found in the hearts of some of its citizens and in the court calendars. Gov. Albert C. Ritchie is sitting directly on top of a political munitions heap—and sitting quietly, too,—for fear that any sudden move or loud noise might set his entire eastern shore to pistol popping and rope swinging. Another lynching right now would seriously handicap the Maryland governor's Democratic presidential aspirations. The other may "blow over."

Talks with Gov. Ritchie, William Preston Lane Jr., the attorney general, and other state officials have been singularly unproductive of statements that might be printed behind quotation marks. To disclose the results of their investigations into the mob spirit of the eastern coast now, they believe, would "do more harm than good."

Justice Blind, Deaf, Dumb.

The real reason they have nothing to say is that their investigations have made little headway in pinning the Salisbury lynching on individuals Justice is frequently referred to as being blind, but justice in a small town after a lynching is deaf and dumb as well. Gov. Ritchie has done all that the law calls for him to do in the present case, but that has not been enough.

Gov. Ritchie received THE TRIBUNE reporter in his office here in the Union Trust building yesterday. He was frankly worried for Maryland and for the effect that this state's internal upheavals would have on his national reputation, but he had no statement to make—yet.

Sparrows Halt Story.

The governor might have been persuaded to talk about the lynching and I might have got the "real story" if a flock of the largest and best fed sparrows in Maryland had not flown into the executive office through an open window. For the next five minutes the governor, his secretary and this reporter were busy chasing birds. Once the sparrows were out, towels were brought in and when they arrived they bore apropriately enough the inscription in bold red letters, "Office of the president." Somehow, the conversation never did get back to the level of lynchings.

A visit to Mr. Lane's office was a pleasant social affair and productive of considerable historical data concerning Maryland's constitutional structure and past achievements and misdeeds. It was not, however, informative as to what steps the state is taking to punish a group of citizens who staged a particularly revolting lynching.

Ritchie in Dilemma.

From other sources a clearer picture of what Gov. Ritchie is doing in his present dilemma was obtained. The governor is handicapped by lack of power to remove elected county officials. He has no real state police force, the seventy-five state policemen being nothing more than traffic guardians without punitive power in an individual county unless specially deputized. In putting Attorney General Lane and his office to work on the lynching case he took the only step possible with the exception of sending the National Guard into the peninsula country.

It is the hope of the governor and his advisers that enough evidence may be obtained to send several names before the grand jury, but they hardly expect to obtain an indictment.

Meanwhile, to add to the governor's dilemma, the Court of Appeals has delayed since Dec. 17 to hand down a decision as to whether Yuel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, the negro farm hand who is charged with having murdered a family of four last October, shall be tried on the eastern shore where the crime was committed or in Baltimore.

Anything Might Happen.

If the court of appeals should turn the Lee case back to the county court and the trial takes place in the rural section of the state anything might happen. Lee is represented by Bernard Ades, an international labor defense attorney with a communistic background.

George Davis, another Negro, will be tried in Elkton—the northern tip of the eastern coast country—on the charge of having attempted to rape a white woman. The Davis trial is set for Jan. 5. Both the Davis and the Lee trials have been long delayed and the only reason, it is said, the defendants have not been lynched is because they are secure in Baltimore city jail

Gov. Ritchie has publicly announced that he will protect the defendants and the lawyer Ades.

Between Two Extremes.

Gov. Ritchie's friends point out that for him to do more than he has would cost him political support in some southern states where lynching, under certain circumstances, is not frowned upon. On the other hand Pennsylvania Democrats are inclined to criticise Ritchie for an apparent slowness of action. West Virginia is pointing pridefully to two men in jail for its most recent lynching bee.

There has been a minimum of criticism concerning the manner in which the lynching investigation has progressed. The entire affair, a week's survey shows, has gone off at various tangents. Mr. Lane is investigating the Salisbury lynching. Salisbury is delving into "communistic plots" which the town feels is "at the bottom of all the trouble." The international labor defense is said to be "investigating the investigators" and the dry voting Chesapeake coast country has grown so interested in voicing its hate against its Baltimore critics that for the moment it has forgotten what it calls its "bad niggers."

Meanwhile there has been some unorganized criticism against Gov. Ritchie for keeping a Chicago speaking engagement just a day or so after the Salisbury crime. If he had moved fast and firmly then instead of "campaigning." his critics believe, he might have got results.

Lynchings - 1931
Discussions

White Press, (Northern)

3302

LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS HITS FAKE LYNCHING FIGURES

Daily Worker 1-6-30

Denounce Efforts of Moton, DuBois Crowds to Soft- Peddle on Bosses Murderous Lynching Terror Against Negro Masses

NEW YORK.—Pointing out that even the capitalist press was forced to report 38 lynchings during 1930, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, in a statement issued yesterday, sharply denounced the figures of 21 lynchings given out by Tuskegee Institute and of 25 lynchings by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

New York

"These figures are lies," the statement declares, "and are in line with the treacherous role of the Negro reformist organizations of minimizing the bosses' lynching terror against the Negro workers and soft-peddling generally the frightful oppression to which the Negro masses in this country, and particularly the 9,000,000 living in the South, are subjected by the brutal white slave drivers' democracy.

"This deliberate act on the part of the Negro misleaders of covering up the lynching terror is a part of their historic role as defenders and apologists for the imperialist oppressors of the Negro and white masses. It is an effort to stem the rising wrath of the Negro masses against their persecutors, as well as to try to justify the reformists' methods of petitions and prayers from which the Negro masses are now turning in disgust. It is another effort of the imperialists and their Negro lackeys to divert the masses from militant methods of struggle and to win them to the reformists' approval of segregation, Jim-Crowism, etc.

"The League of Struggle for Negro Rights calls upon the white and Negro masses for joint struggle against the imperialists and their Negro and white lackeys, for mass violation of all Jim-Crow laws and practices, for resistance by squads of white and Negro workers to the lynchers, for full equality of Negroes with other nationalities, and for the right of self-determination for the Negro majorities in the South."

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 5 - 1931

EDUCATORS DENOUNCE INCREASE IN LYNCHINGS

Southern Leaders Call for Resolute Public Opinion to Punish Participants in Crimes.

Twenty-nine Southern educators issued yesterday through the Fellowship of Reconciliation, 383 Bible House, Astor Place, a manifesto on lynching, asserting that such crimes trebled in 1930.

"Lynching is more than a crime," the manifesto says. "It boldly thwarts the most elementary ends of justice, constitutes a complete denial of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and represents anarchy in its most vicious and insolent form. It flagrantly strikes at the foundations of all organized social life and outrages every ideal of liberty.

"Although in recent years the number of lynchings has been diminishing, this year has seen a resurgence of this unspeakably brutal thing and an increase in the number of instances where offenders have been unwilling or unable to protect alleged criminals from mob murder. * * * We call upon press, pulpit and school and every patriotic citizen to assist in arousing a resolute public opinion that will uphold the protecting arm of common justice, and we insist upon the prosecution of every person who participates in any act of lynching and of every officer who in any manner condones it."

The signers of the manifesto were:

ALBERT E. BARNETT, Scarritt College.
LUANNA J. BOWLES, Fisk University.
THOMAS ELSA JONES, president Fisk University.
J. L. KESLER, Vanderbilt University.
JOHN KNOX, Fisk University.
J. J. MULLOWNEY, president Meharry Medical College.
Mrs. **ALVA TAYLOR**, Nashville.
HOWARD KESTER, Vanderbilt University.
WILSON NEWMAN, Nashville.
GEORGE HAY, Medina, Texas.
FRANK ONDERDONK, San Antonio, Texas
A. B. CLARKE, Hopewell, Va.
IDA SITLER, Hollins College, Va.
Professor **JOE CONNALLY**, Paine College Augusta, Ga.
B. E. MAYS, Atlanta.
H. W. POPE, Atlanta.
HOWARD THURMAN, Atlanta.
HAZEL NORTH CARTER, Columbus, Ga.
PAUL HARRIS, Louisville.
G. BARRETT RICH, Lebanon, Ky.
L. H. KING, New Orleans.
ELISABETH GILMAN, Baltimore.
FERN BABCOCK, St. Louis.
J. H. HORSTMANN, St. Louis.
CHARLES A. ELLWOOD, Duke University Durham, N. C.
ELBERT RUSSELL, Duke University, Durham, N. C.
C. H. HAMLIN, Wilson, N. C.
WILHELMINA HYDRICK, Durham, N. C.
STAN R. PIER, Stillwater, Okla.

DETROIT, MICH., FREE PRESS
Sunday, January 4, 1931

CAUSE OF LYNCHING.

The distinguished committee that is attempting to run down and identify the causes of lynchings in the south, although it has not yet completed its study, announces that it has discovered a connection between educational and economic backwardness and these sudden outbursts of savagery, whch impel mobs to take the law into their own hands and torture and kill. Some such connection apparently does exist. Communities well versed in the theory and practice of orderly government are less given to lynching than communities in which considerable elements still believe that if the law is to be well enforced they must enforce it themselves.

At the same time we read that when former Judge Ben B. Lindsey was recently ejected from the cathedral of St. John the Divine, whose fashionable congregation is recruited from the intellectual aristocracy of New York city, cries of "lynch him" were distinctly heard in different parts of that sacred edifice. There was no lynching; but the fact that the call of the wild was heard on Morningside Heights shows that the emotions which too often do produce lynchings are not confined exclusively to parts of the country that are still intellectually in the dark ages.

The primitive passions that demand a human sacrifice to appease them can be controlled only by adding to education a stability of character that will withstand sudden blasts of anger and blood lust. Obviously that is not easily accomplished; but that it is not impossible of accomplishment is proved by the fact that for the greater part of the country, we are already civilized enough to ignore the cry of the would-be lyncher and bounce the offender into a patrol wagon.

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MICHIGAN CITY, IND., Dispatc
Thursday, January 8, 1931

LYNCHING HIT IN THE SOUTH

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A most commendable movement in the south aims to arouse the people of that section against the evils of lynching and persuade them to end it by legislation with real teeth in it. Working on the problem is a commission in which George F. Milton of the Chattanooga News is active, which is trying to ascertain the causes of these mob outbreaks in order the more effectually to prevent them.

Pending the creation of a public opinion everywhere in the community that will not tolerate lynching under any circumstances, there must be effective legislation and the law school of the University of North Carolina has been asked to draft a model statute. Such a statute should not only ensure the trial of lynchers irrespective of local prejudices and obstruction, but make counties or other communities liable to damages for the mob outrages they tolerate.

The most encouraging thing about this movement is that it springs out of the south itself. State laws, effective and rigidly enforced, are preferable to a federal statute; only if the states fail in their duty is federal legislation necessary.

RICHMOND, IND., PALLADIUM
Wednesday, January 7, 1931

55

Sheriffs and Lynchings

When society entrusts a prisoner for safekeeping to a sheriff, it has every reason to believe that this official will protect him against lynch law.

Where sheriffs make a determined effort to protect their prisoners and let it be known that they will be true to their oath of office, lynchings seldom take place.

The attitude which the sheriff of Grant county took last summer when a mob leisurely demolished the jail doors with sledge hammers to batter their way to two Negroes deserves to be condemned.

Under an old Indiana law, a sheriff automatically was removed from office if prisoners were taken from him and lynched. The restoration of that law might be a bit of legislation that would make Indiana sheriffs zealous to protect persons entrusted to them.

The present law calls for removal from office and a fine of $1,000 upon conviction. The Grant county sheriff's term expired [illegible]ore he could be tried, and consequently [illegible]t be removed. The $1,000 fine has [illegible]ce. The people of Indiana want sher[illegible] who will uphold the dignity of the law in every extreme.

WOMEN OF GEORGIA TO FIGHT LYNCHING

New Association Calls Crime Greater Menace to State Than Any Other.

1-18-31

POLICE HEAD URGES ACTION

N.Y.

Mob Violence Can Be Prevented by Quick, Determined Work, Chief Watkins Asserts.

By JULIAN HARRIS.
Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Jan. 15.—Governors, judges and solicitors generally remain silent and grand juries inactive in the presence of brutal and cowardly lynchings, but the women of the South refuse to be awed by politics or accept the ancient excuse used by lawless mobs in this section.

In line with the action taken here in November by a number of Southern women, another group of women—Georgians this time—met in Atlanta yesterday and organized the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

A resolution denouncing lynching as a protection to the womanhood of the South was adopted and, among other sentiments, it expressed humiliation at the 1930 lynchings in this State. As citizens accepting a share of the responsibility for mob law activities, the resolution condemned the practice and pledged the members to "do everything in our power to correct it."

State the Real Victim.

"The real victim of lynching," the resolution affirmed, "is not so much the person done to death but constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other."

"We shall not remain idle," the document continued, "indifferent or acquiescent. We shall carry on a campaign of education and action for the prevention of lynching. We shall seek to have brought to justice persons who are participants in this crime."

The resolution closed with a call to the women of all Southern States to join in the movement "to rid the South of a crime which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianity and destroys our government."

Among the well-known Georgia women present were Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, Mrs. Julian Harris, Mrs. H. H. Hirsch, Mrs. B. F. Boykin, Mrs. W. T. Morton, Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Mrs. John J. Eagan, Mrs. Henry L. Gershon, Mrs. Daniel Ames and Mrs. W. A. Albright of Atlanta; Mrs. Anne Linton, Mrs. C. A. Vernooy, Miss Elizabeth Head, Mrs. Audley Morton of Athens; Mrs. Alonzo Park of Lithonia, Mrs. W. A. Turner of Newnan, Mrs. Virlyn Moore of Bolton, Mrs. Wellington Stevens of Decatur, and Mrs. E. B. Harrold and Mrs. Willie Snow Ethridge of Macon.

While the women of Georgia were organizing to fight lynching, the State Interracial Commission held a meeting here, the feature of which was the frank and courageous talk of Ben T. Watkins, Chief of Police of Macon and president of the Georgia Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers. He declared that "even a rigid enforcement of traffic laws will prevent lynching."

Chief Watkins termed lynching "the blackest blot smeared across our history, but a crime which practically any determined Police Chief can prevent if he will only work quickly enough."

Remedies Suggested.

As added precautions against mob law vengeance, the Macon chief said that every jail in the State should be equipped with tear gas bombs and sub-machine guns for use in emergencies. Among the causes of lynchings he mentioned "race prejudice, slow processes of justice, crooked lawyers, political fear and legal loopholes." He recommended fearless law enforcement and speedy trials, the education of public opinion and precautionary measures.

The commission adopted a resolution urging every minister in Georgia to deliver from his pulpit during 1931 a vigorous protest against lynching and other forms of mob violence.

Encouraging facts in the interracial situation, pointed out by Arthur Raper, secretary of the commission, included that of the unfavorable public reaction to the "black shirt" movement which resulted in its collapse; the organization of Negro Boy Scouts in a number of cities; the improvement here and there of educational facilities for Negroes, and the cooperation of the State association of sheriffs and peace officers in the prevention of mob activities.

After a series of barbaric lynchings, Georgia may keep step with her new mood by reviving the use of the lash or whip on Georgia convicts.

This form of punishment was outlawed by Governor Thomas Hardwick. At the present special session of the Georgia Legislature, which is attempting to patch up a broken-down tax system, Representative C. M. Harris of Terrell County introduced a bill allowing wardens to use the lash. The House Penitentiary Committee rejected the bill but favored an amendment by Representative Thomas of Wayne County providing that convicts to be whipped shall be presented at the County Ordinary's office and lashed in the presence of the Ordinary, justice of the peace and judge of the city or county court. Perhaps a little later the number of witnesses will be expanded or there will be set aside

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ashing days, which could be a fea ure of county fairs.

TROOPS HIDE AS LYNCHERS WORK

Daily Worker

Sheriff Handed Over Victim

1-14-31

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 13.—The group of business men and landowners who, traveling in expensive cars yesterday took Raymond Gunn, Negro worker, from an unresisting sheriff and burned him alive before an approving crowd of 4,000, are admitted to have made not the slightest attempt to disguise themselves.

Gunn was surrendered to the mob while being taken to court to answer the charge of murdering a white school teacher. No shot was fired, no weapon brandished. The obliging sheriff just slowed up his car and handed over his prisoner as per prearrangement.

New York,

Neither civilian officers nor a National Guard battery, mobilized in a nearby armory on the premise of protecting the accused worker, offered the slightest interference after the mob seized unn and marched and dragged him three miles to the school house which was used as his pyre

N.Y.

NEW YORK.—Instilling into the minds of their readers the idea that Raymond Gunn, accused of murder, was guilty of the crime, the boss press and news agencies throughout the country are openly supportinf the atrocious lynching of Gunn which occurred yesterday in Marysville, Mo.

The boss papers for two days have carried stories and captions which are nothing less than trying the lynch victim out of court. In New York City alone, the following heads appeared:

"Mob of 2,000 Burns Girl's Killer Alive."—Daily News. Missourians Burn Teacher's Slayer."—N. Y. Evening Post. "Burn Negro Killer on Victim's School."—N. Y. Times.

The lynching of Gunn nad the open support given by the boss press of the country ot the lynchers were denounced last night in a statement issued by the national office, 799 Broadway, of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. The statement points out that the National Guard was mobilized not to protect the Negro worker but to prevent defense corps from being formed for the protection of Gunn, and calls upon the Negro and white workers to intensify the work of organizing defense corps to resist the lynchers, and of rallying wider and wider masses of Negro and white poor farmers and workers to the support of the demand for the right of the Negro majorities in the Black Belt to decide and control the government in that section as the only guarantee against lynching and Negro oppression in capitalist United States.

The statement ended with the call to Negro and white workers to unite and smash the bosses' lynching terror! Demand death penalty for all lynchers! Carry through mass violations of all Jim Crow laws and practices! Organize Self-Defense Corps!

BULLETIN
NORWICH, CONN.

JAN 15 1931

MISSOURI'S LYNCHING

It is not an impressive picture that is presented by the people of Maryville, Mo., either in the resort to lynch law or the manner in which they did it.

There can be no question but what the murder of the young school teacher was an atrocious act, one that might be expected to arouse the indignation of any community, but in this instance there is nothing to indicate but what the accused Negro would have been given his just deserts under the provisions of the law. He had been apprehended by the authorities, was in custody when he was seized by the mob and there was every reason to expect that the law would have been carried out, promptly and positively.

There was a demonstration of bad judgment on the part of the mob when it arranged to lynch the Negro. It was followed up by a weak-kneed attitude on the part of the sheriff in failing to protect his prisoner and in neglecting to seek the aid of the militia, which had been called out to prevent any outbreak. That was only preliminary to the resort to the barbaric practice of burning the accused alive. Savagery in its worst days could have done little worse, but all reason seemed to have been cast aside by the mob, for it insisted upon the destruction of the schoolhouse by fire, as well as the Negro. It was a case of lynching that equalled anything in the far southern states and was without justification quite the same as in all cases where mob rule is attempted. It was an act that works to the disgrace of Maryville, in particular, while Missouri cannot escape the effects of it.

Quite in contrast to the attitude displayed by many officials was that of the sheriff, who gave up his prisoner without resistance and without trying to get aid to uphold the laws of the state. There can be no such thing as condoning the crime the Negro is reported to have confessed committing, but the ends of justice would have been better served in all particulars had there been strict adherence to the law and a prompt trial and conviction been followed by the penalty that is to be expected for murder. Mob rule simply makes those participating in a lynching as bad defiers of the law as the person lynched was considered to be.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

White Press, Northern.

3303

NEW YORK WORLD

FEB 8 - 1931

Lynching Total Increased In 1930

Restlessness of Jobless Led to More Mob Killings

By R. E. Secrest

THAT crash along Wall Street back in November, 1929, that was heard in the far corners of the world, has been blamed for practically everything, but not until now, the beginning of a new year, has anyone thought to blame it for a decided increase in lynchings during 1930.

Coincident with the announcement of various racial bodies that, on Dec. 31, total lynchings for the year 1930 stood at between twenty-one and twenty-five, came expressed opinions of social and racial experts that the period of unrest and depression following the crash was more or less directly responsible for the increase over the preceding three years.

They explain that in periods of depression, when tempers are short and there are thousands of unemployed men, mob hysteria flames up far more quickly than in normal times. It is significant that in a number of the recorded lynchings during the year, the offense committed by the victim was not known even by members of the mob. These mobsmen were drawn largely from the ranks of unemployed men and women, agitated by a dissatisfaction which they turned against their victim.

Georgia Led
States Easily

As to actual lynching statistics authorities are inclined to accept the figures of the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama as final. These figures, released Jan. 1, show twenty-one persons lynched in the United States during 1930.

Of this total twenty were Negroes and one was a white man lynched in Florida.

This is ten more than the number for 1929, nine more than in 1928, four more than 1927 and ten fewer than in 1926.

Georgia easily led in the number of lynchings with six. Other states follow in their order: Mississippi, four; Texas, three; Indiana and South Carolina, two each; Alabama, Florida, North Carolina and Oklahoma, one each.

Figures of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with headquarters in New York, show a total of twenty-five lynchings for the year, but five of the cases they list have been investigated by the Tuskegee department and put down as murder by individuals rather than mob action.

First appearances in these cases indicated mob action, but closer investigation showed individual parties were responsible.

Tuskegee's figures have been accepted generally during the last twenty years as conservatively correct and have been approved for 1930 by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, the leading organization of its kind, and newspaper editors generally.

Fourteen of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were killed in jail, two of these were shot to death and one was burned to death when a mob burned the jail and courthouse at Sherman, Tex.

Five of the eleven other persons in the hands of the law were taken from jail and six from officers of the law outside the jails. Of the six victims who did not come into police hands, one was burned to death and one was put to death and his body burned.

White Woman
Confessed Lie

There were thirty-seven instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern states and thirty-four in Southern states. In thirty-two of the cases the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repulse the would-be lynchers.

Offenses involved in the lynchings run a gamut. They include rape and attempted rape, accounting for a total of ten victims; murder; killing officers of the law; robbery; being a witness against a white man; being active in politics, and offenses unknown.

In at least three of the rape cases, the Negroes lynched were never positively identified by their alleged victims. In one case the white woman involved admitted later that she had not been attacked but had become frightened by a Negro. Her hysteria led to a speedy lynching.

In this connection, Walter White, acting secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, states

"That lynching is not and never has been primarily a 'protection of white womanhood' in the South or elsewhere is attested by the increasing number of resolutions passed by leading white women in the South repudiating this form of barbarity. During the year, representative white women of twelve Southern states passed resolutions declaring they desired no such 'protection.'

In yet another case, a woman who had been guilty of an indiscretion in her relations with men and fearing her husband would discover her secret, blamed a Negro for an attack that never took place. Subsequently, a suspect was arrested, taken from the jail and lynched. The woman, an illiterate person of the "white trash" type, admitted under pressure that she had lied.

A study of the cases shows that in almost every instance where a prisoner was taken from jail or from officers, a decided stand by the officers in question would have averted a lynching.

At Huntsville, Ala., early in the fall, two Negroes were placed in jail on separate charges, one involving the murder of a white man and the other the robbery and killing and wounding of a white man and his wife. A mob stormed the jail the night after they were arrested and demanded the two prisoners. The sheriff of the county quietly refused to accede to their demands, and when he saw the situation was getting dangerous, he called for the militia.

With arrival of the troops under order of Gov. Bibb Graves, the large crowd dispersed with a harmless display. The Negroes were removed to another jail and later were released as being innocent of the crimes with which they were charged.

Arrival of troops at Sherman, Tex., in what was probably the most sensational mob action in the year, had a directly opposite effect, however. The mob, in which were many women, attacked the guardsmen and gave them a fierce battle. They succeeded finally in setting fire to the jail, in which was lodged George Hughes, Negro, charged with assault on a white woman.

The guardsmen, many of them residents of the section, were reluctant to fire at the mob and finally withdrew. Members of the mob dynamited the vault in which the Negro by this time had roasted to death, finally obtained his body and dragged it through the streets.

Another outstanding case occurred at Darien, Ga., and led to an investigation that threatened city and county officials and National Guard officers with indictment for murder. Two of the guard officers resigned before a grand jury in McIntosh County eventually "whitewashed" both militia and police.

A bank watchman had been wounded in an attempted robbery of a Darien bank. The acting chief of police at Brunswick, who joined in the posse seeking two Negro suspects, was killed in a battle with the fugitives in a rice field near the city. Guardsmen were called from Savannah to join the posse, and succeeded in catching one Negro.

A detachment of the guards took the Negro to jail, which was built in the rear part of the sheriff's home, and had just left his cell when the Negro was shot and killed. The sheriff was ill and in bed at the time. The guardsmen claimed they had done their duty in delivering the prisoner safely to the jail.

The next night, the second Negro suspect was shot and killed at his home by a detachment of the posse said to have included either guardsmen or officers.

Victims Usually
Feeble-Minded

Further investigation of the two lynchings was dropped when the grand jury returned no bills after a secret inquiry.

Another double lynching in Mississippi was laid directly to social unrest. Two Negroes robbed a white man and his wife and tied them to trees. Within an hour they had been captured and "strung up" by a mob of idlers and jobless.

At Cartersville, Ga., a Negro who had confessed to killing the chief of police was lynched at a time when officers considered they had everything under control. The officers reported that but one or two residents of the town took part in the lynching, the majority being unemployed men from nearby towns. Most of these, it was reported, were members of an organization formed during the depression period and working toward elimination of Negroes from jobs needed by white men.

In a majority of cases where major crimes actually were committed by Negroes who subsequently were lynched, it was found in a study of their past life that they were feeble-minded, or actually verging on criminal insanity.

In this connection, Dr. Will W. Alexander, one of the foremost students of interracial conditions over the world, believes one of the outstanding remedies for what he calls the "lynching fever" is the establishment in states in the lynching zone of institutions for the feeble-minded Negro.

"And," he adds, "after looking over the cases for 1930 I don't think it would hurt any to have institutions for the feeble-minded white persons who usually take part in mob actions."

Regardless of the effect such temporary conditions as the depression might have on the increase or decrease in lynchings, Dr. Alexander has his own unusual theory as to the fundamental causes.

He goes back to long before the Civil War, when the population of the South consisted of the slave owning, aristocratic planters, their Negroes, and a large majority of "underdog" whites, whom Page called "the forgotten man."

Association Asks
Action by Congress

"Before the Civil War," says Dr. Alexander, "this 70 per cent of the South's population was usually referred to by the 'aristocrats' as 'poor white trash,' and was looked down on even by the slaves.

"After the war, the planters, the Negroes, and the 'poor whites' were on the same footing, and all the prejudice and superstitions of years came to the front. The Negro was their enemy, and now that this formerly 'peasant' class is in the ascendancy it is not strange that lynchings are frequent.

"The enforcement officers, the jurists and even the Governors of the new South are drawn from this one class. The 'aristocrats' have faded into the background. With their background of traditional hate, officers in many cases do not attempt to avert lynchings, judges do not prosecute, and Governors do not investigate. The lynchings are merely forgotten."

Dr. Alexander believes three things will gradually eliminate lynchings, especially in the South. These are: Readjustment of the traditional attitude of the white persons now in ascendancy toward the Negro; the placing of all feeble-minded Negroes in institutions, thereby eliminating the type of Negro who commits the sorts of crime that lead to lynchings; and vigorous prosecution of mob leaders and members.

On the other hand, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People demands immediate congressional action.

In its statement issued at the first of the year, it says:

"Prompt action by Congress on lynching is vitally necessary. In periods of depression, lynchings are more frequent. As the present unemployment crisis seems likely to be with us for some time to come, prompt congressional action can save the lives of men and women as yet unlynched."

The association says that only the federal government can cope with the situation, and that the states have shown themselves powerless or unwilling to prosecute lynchers.

It points out the lynching at Marion, Ind., where the names of twenty-seven known participants were furnished, but with no effective action by the authorities.

The Commission on Interracial Co-operation, composed of leading editors and educators of the nation, does not feel alarmed about the 1930 situation, however. Their records for the fifty-year period ending with 1930 show that the total for last year was small, comparatively speaking.

The total for the half-century from 1880 to 1930 stands at an amazing figure—almost 5,000 dead at the hands of lynchers. This would give an average of fifty victims a year, which compares favorably with the twenty dead for 1930.

NEWS

Jefferson City, Mo.

MAR 17 1931

ST. LOUIS PASTORS URGE THE PROSECUTION OF MARYVILLE LYNCHERS

A group of St. Louis pastors representing Protestant, Catholic and Jewish churches yesterday urged Governor Caulfield to prosecute the investigation of the lynching of Raymond Gunn negro, at Maryville, and to take steps to ward off similar mob action in the future.

The delegation included Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman of Temple Israel, Dean William Scarlett of Christ Church Cathedral and representatives of nine protestant denominations.

COLUMBIA, MO.
MISSOURIAN ~~TRIBUNE~~

MAR 18 1931

Race Co-Operation Checks Riots, Lynchings

Hostility, at Peak in 1919, Reduced by Interracial Committee Composed of One Hundred Leaders, Colored and White—Upper South With Old Slavery Tradition Has Less Trouble Than Black Belt and Border States—Movement Points to New Peace, New Justice.

NO QUESTION outside of prohibition has aroused more speculation and debate than interracial relations in the South. But a constructive, workable approach has only come into being within the last twelve years. The Committee on Interracial Co-operation furnishes the first practical solution to a problem paramount since post-Civil War days.

Interrecial hostility reached a crucial point at the close of the World War; race riots and national distrust were nation-wide. A commission composed of one hundred leading white and negro citizens of the South decided that the crisis could be tided over by mutual understanding between the most trusted and capable leaders of each group, with good-will, justice and fair-dealing as a basis. The commission established thousands of points of interracial contact throughout the South, to discover the true facts and to act upon them.

The plan succeeded. Educational enterprises for negroes were forwarded, involving millions of dollars. Health campaigns were promoted in every state, hospitals and clinics were established, lynchings prevented, legal aid extended to thousands of negroes, civic enterprises forwarded, and close contact maintained between church and school. A press service, reaching 2000 newspapers and magazines is maintained regularly, "to interpret each race to the other in the best light consistent with truth."

In spite of these advances, a vast amount of work remains undone. Injustice, misunderstanding, intolerance, are still grave problems in the South, the mass mind remains prejudiced. The majority wants to "keep the Negro in his place," without making any constructive effort to find out just what the place could be.

* * * *

A THOROUGH understanding of the exact status of the Negro in the South is the first requisite toward intelligent adjustment. Except in a geographic sense, there is no South. There are at least three sharp divisions in the race problem and the general attitude towards it. The Upper South, including Virgina, North Carolina, Tennesee and Kentucky typified the older tradition of slavery. Only a few slaves were owned by one master, and the contacts between plantation ruler and slave were close and personal. A feeling of paternal responsibility and humanitarian interest developed on the part of the owner toward his slaves.

The Black Belt, or Lower South composed of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina and Florida has a different background. The population here was mixed with Georgia "crackers," and the slave holding units were much larger. The negro was regarded as a rival by the non-slaveholding men, and was exploited by the plantation owners.

A third economic division of the South is the border states, including Missouri, Maryland, Oklahoma, sections of southern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Traditions and sympathies of these states are distinctly southern, but here, too, the Negro was originally regarded as a competitor. This section has been particularly slow to accept the changes of the New South.

Will W. Alexander, director of Interracial Co-operation shows the difference between the upper and lower south. For example, the average expenditure per educable Negro child in Upper South is $11.31, while in the Lower South it is only $5.60. A corresponding difference exists in the border states.

* * * *

AS long as the Negro is kept outside of organized labor, and regarded as a dangerous competitor, there is little hope of satisfactory adjustment. The Negro has proved capable of taking his place as a worker when he did the skilled labor of the Old South. But in many states, the Negro is not only kept out of the skilled labor field, but is crowded out of the fields that once belonged exclusively to him, such as employment in hotels, barber shops and the like.

The work of the Interracial Committee has been called "an adventure in faith." It has been more than justified, but its work has just begun. A few of the major problems of Negro adjustment have been pointed out; a true knowledge of the facts and a fair and humanitarian legislation based on these facts alone can give permanent relief to present situations. Negro social workers are being trained, and have helped create a newer and better South, but they must be backed and directed by the white man.

AS Mr. Alexander points out in the past the politician spoke for the south on race questions. Today, more and more, the college man is thinking and speaking for the new South. More than one hundred southern universities offer elective introductive courses in race studies to undergraduates. The University of North Carolina is pioneering in the field of research in race studies. Interest in these problems is sincere and gratifying, a hopeful beginning to the removal of a blot on national honor.

The work of the Interracial Committee, and the new sentiment which it has created is a start in the right direction toward the solution of one of America's gravest social and economic responsibilities, but it is only a start. "A road has been found, which, if patiently followed, promises to lead us out."

PITTSBURG, CAL.
POST-DISPATCH

APR 16 1931

More Lynchings

In 1929 there were lynchings in this country in only five states. There were only ten lynchings in the whole year. That marked a low point, and it was welcomed as a sign of the abatement [illegible] spirit and the growth of respect for the legal processes of justice. It was felt that more citizens were aware of the national shame of lynching and more public authorities were ready to meet their responsibility in preventing mob violence.

Then came 1930. In the past year there were 21 lynchings scattered through nine states. The record has been worse in the past, but this is disheartening because it shatters the hope that improvement was permanent and lynching was approaching the vanishing point.

A distinguished Hungarian scholar who has recently become an American citizen has referred to racketeering and lynchings as "specifically American." Among our many good traits and achievements and some bad ones which we share with other nations, he found those two things unique. They present a challenge which thoughtful citizens are anxious to meet, and which must be met if we are to retain our self-respect as a nation.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.
NEW MEXICO STATE ~~JOURNAL~~ Tribune

APR 21 1931

ONE WOMAN AND A MOB

A courageous woman last Saturday saved one negro from a mob in Tennessee while in a nearby town another negro was taken from the jail and hanged in the court house yard.

The sheriff's wife who saved the negro, saved justice.

While we wish there were more like her, neither Tennessee nor any other states should have to depend upon lone women to avert the stigma of mob violence.

There should be a federal statute outlawing lynching, and federal enforcement.

The republican party's platform of 1928 said:

"We renew our recommendation that the congress enact at the earliest possible date a federal anti-lynching law so that the full influence of the federal government may be wielded to exterminate this hideous crime."

In an official document issued recently by the republican national committee, the party's platform pledges are listed in one column, and in a parallel column is told what has been done to fulfill each of them. Beside the anti-lynching plank is a blank space.

Yet, President Hoover said: "Platform pledges must not be empty gestures."

This should be remembered by the republican spokesmen now barnstorming the south.

Meanwhile, what do the democrats propose to do about the national disgrace of lynching?

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

White Press, (Northern)

3304

3304

Aftermath of a Lynching

By WILLIAM PICKENS

A LYNCHING took place in Marion, Indiana, on August 7, 1930. The victims were two Negroes charged with murder; there was also what seems to have been a false charge of rape, which served to win sympathy for the lynchers. The two men were in jail and would have been fully punished by the State. Nation

The trial of the second of the half-dozen or so men who were indicted for the lynching was in progress in the last week of February, 1931. And it was astonishing to see and feel the mob atmosphere that still prevailed nearly seven months after the murder. The first member of the mob to be tried had been acquitted by the jury in twenty minutes. Against the second, Charles Lennon, there was enough evidence to hang ten men. Seven reputable citizens, including the sheriff from whom the prisoners had been taken, the chief of police, and two reporters of the two local papers, had definitely identified Lennon as the man who had swung the sledge hammer to break down the jail doors. And an eighth witness, who did not know him by name, described him exactly as the other seven had described him. Moreover, the witnesses for the defendant included his wife, his mother-in-law, his brother-in-law, and a "good friend," in whose testimony the prosecution pointed out many discrepancies and some absolute lies. 4-15-31

But it was plain that the mob spirit was dominating the trial and the court. Men who had been members of the mob packed the auditorium to the corridors, hundreds of them, every day. And a hard-faced lot they were. The better class of citizens seemed to be unconcerned about the matter; at least they were not present during the first three days of the trial. The Negroes, too, absented themselves, since they had no hope of seeing justice done, until finally a mass-meeting of Negroes was called, and the speaker, representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, showed the colored citizens how by their sullen and despairing absence they were leaving the whole spiritual domination of the courtroom to the mob. He urged them to attend the trial and by their very presence add their spiritual weight to the forces of prosecution. New York, N.Y.

During the last three days of the trial, therefore, Negro citizens attended in unusually large numbers. And strange to say, the rougher-looking mob element dwindled a bit among the spectators and some of the more cultured whites began to attend. On Friday afternoon, when the crowd was waiting on the deliberations of the jury, most of the mob crowd stayed out in the corridors, while Negroes and the better class of whites sat inside.

I visited Marion just a few months before the lynching. At that time the colored people gave a banquet for me, to which the mayor, the chief of police, and other city officials and prominent citizens came by invitation. They ate and drank with us. They declared that the colored people were on the whole the most law-abiding and the best citizens of Marion. But seven months after the savage lynching, many white people frowned or growled at the sight of a colored person; friendly greetings were rare, suspicion quick. We always fear and suspect those whom we have injured.

At the trial, while the judge seemed to be professional, the general atmosphere of the court was biased. The two young lawyers representing the attorney general's office and the "State" were looked upon as enemies of the community not only by the mob but also by most of the court officials. Their objections were almost uniformly denied and they were frequently insulted by court subordinates, while the two defense lawyers by a trick kept one of the prosecutors, Judge Earl Stroup, from making his plea to the court. After Merl Wald, the first prosecutor, had made his argument before the court, the attorneys for the defense announced that they would make no argument; as a result Stroup had no chance to present the devastating rebuttal which they knew he would make. The defense lawyers, who appeared to be weak and inexperienced—they were said to be two insurance agents who had recently "read law"—were willing to let their case rest with the evident prejudices of the jury. One of the defense attorneys was observed exchanging grins and disparaging grimaces with one of the jurors while Prosecutor Wald was making his remarkably fine statement to the jury. In his charge the judge laid great emphasis on the "presumption of innocence" to which the defendant was entitled, and stressed the point that proofs against him must be "beyond a reasonable doubt." Vol. 132, no. 3432

The case went to the jury on Friday. All afternoon the crowd waited, hundreds of people with less than twenty determined Negroes among them. The jury evidently could not agree. The Negroes had decided to stay through to the end. Mobs are like dogs. They seize you when you run, but only bark or growl or snap at you when you stand. The Negroes decided to stand at all costs. There were detectives, uniformed policemen, and deputy sheriffs in the crowd, but their presence held no assurance for colored people. Many of the spectators were armed, including some of the Negroes. Six of the Negroes who stayed were women, including Mrs. F. K. Bailey, local leader of the colored people. She and her husband, like all the other colored citizens of Marion, have been living under the threat of mob attacks ever since last August. The jury deliberated for many hours. Apparently it included at least one brave man who held out to the end, for the final report was disagreement. The trials of these two lynchers will have cost the county eight or ten thousand dollars. That is perhaps the only punishment that will be meted out. Other cases will be dropped.

The Lennon trial was a fitting climax to the events of the preceding months in Marion. The mob had "felt its oats" ever since that savage night in August and had made continuous attempts to terrorize the Negroes. They rode up and down through the Negro sections in fast autos, shooting and shouting, sometimes adjusting their engines so as to make rapid "back-firing" in the wee hours of the morning, simulating machine-guns. The one Negro physician, who has his office just a half-block from the main square and the courthouse and who has quietly but determinedly kept up his practice in the face of repeated threats, seems to be the chief thorn in the flesh of these people. The physician, six feet tall, straightforward, unquivering, says nothing but goes armed constantly, carrying a Winchester in addition when he answers calls at night. One night, after the firing of many shots near his residence, four automobiles filled with men drew up and parked directly in front of his house on the opposite side of the street. The doctor opened his front door so that the flare of his brightly lighted house fell right across the porch and down the front walk. The mob decided not to accept his invitation and silently withdrew.

Threats were passed around about what would happen to the colored population if Lennon were convicted. It seemed to make no difference that there was no Negro concerned in the actual trial in any way, not even as a witness: the prosecuting lawyers were representing the attorney general's office and the "State" and were almost apologetic in explaining that they had only a professional interest. The case throughout was one of white against white, eight of the most reputable citizens of the town being witnesses against the lyncher. Yet on the day preceding the giving of the case to the jury, mysterious telephone calls were made to the residence where the representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was staying, "warning" him or insinuating threats. The warning came from a white woman, who said that she could not afford to give her name or to tell from what telephone she was making the call. The voices of men called several times, inquiring where the association's speaker was to speak next in Marion, and what route he would take in going and coming that day to and from Muncie. And all night there was shooting and automobile back-firing through the streets where colored people live. The next day efforts were made to frighten all colored people from attending court. Some were frightened away. Others went back with grim determination and a desperate resignation.

The Indiana legislature has just passed a bill to curb lynching. The bill originated among the colored people as a result of the Marion lynchings, and was finally passed almost intact. It provides for (1) automatic suspension of the sheriff in whose county a lynching takes place, with reinstatement only when it is proved to the satisfaction of the governor that the sheriff did his full duty in trying to prevent the lynching; (2) money damages to be assessed against the town, city, or county in favor of the relatives and heirs of the lynched person. The colored people also want the constitution amended, if necessary, to permit the State to ask a change of venue in the trial of lynchers. At present only the accused may ask such a change. In cases of mob violence it would be safe and good policy to allow the prosecution to move for change of venue, for when a great mob holds a small community in its grip for twenty-four hours, there is hardly a prospective juror in the place who is not either a member of the mob, a relative of a member, a friend or a debtor or creditor of a member, or in some way a colleague or henchman of someone interested in defending a member of the mob.

To see Marion nearly seven months after a lynching was to realize the disastrous effect of mob action upon a presumably civilized community. It is a question whether the present generation of Marion inhabitants can ever recover from the relapse of that one night, when they dragged two Negro boys from the jail to a tree on the courthouse lawn in the center square of the city; when, after the killing was over, their youths and young men seized the rope, and like savages, all with their hands on the sacred piece of hemp, danced from the jail to the courthouse lawn, like college students making merry after an athletic victory.

NEW YORK
HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAR 3 - 1931

Lynching Scene Called Unusually Religious Town

Maryville, Mo., Also Education Center, Not a Backwoods Area, Church Council Finds

Populated by Northerners

Irritation Over Trade Ills Held a Cause of Violence

The town of Maryville, Mo., recently the scene of the lynching of a Negro, Raymond Gunn, is not a backwoods town of uneducated mountaineers but a progressive, modern, educational center whose inhabitants possessed the training to know better than indulge in such a gruesome "spectacle," according to a survey of the town conducted by the Federal Council of Churches after the lynching.

The town's population of 5,000 persons, according to the survey made public yesterday, is composed not of Southerners, but largely of Northerners and Easterners. Besides being an educational center, with a normal population of from 700 to 1,000 students and a "fine faculty," it is an unusually religious community, the survey continues, and virtually all residents of the town are church members. Maryville has one Negro and five White Protestant churches besides two Roman Catholic institutions.

While two-fifths of the population "reveled" in the spectacle of the lynching, there has been strong pressure to keep the "ethical idealism of the church" out of business in the town and there has been no "deep respect for law," the report declares. Since the lynching, not one person had uttered a protest, and people had seemed embittered at the "unjust publicity" rather than ashamed of what had been done.

Race prejudice has mounted since the deed so that even a toothpaste has been boycotted because of its "Amos 'n' Andy" dialect programs over the radio, the survey states, and people have been urged to dismiss Negro servants. The surrounding country, which has been famous for raising some of the finest horses, hogs and cattle in the world, had been irritated by recent losses due to bank failures, low prices for crops and decrease in the value of farm lands, all of which are suggested by the council's report as possible contributing causes of the lynching.

The lynching was not the result of impulse, the council concludes, but it had been threatened for weeks, during which "nobody in the churches could or would supply moral leadership." The women of the community, the report says, were especially insistent during that time "in calling not for justice, but for blood."

"There was no doubt that the Negro would be convicted and executed," the report reads. "But Maryville did not want an execution. It wanted a gruesome spectacle. Well, it got the spectacle and made its name a stench in the nostrils of the civilized world."

NEW YORK JOURNAL

Bronx Section

APR 6 - 1931

HARLEM PUSHES LYNCH LAW

"The Southern States have proved that they are not competent to deal with lynching; Federal officers and prosecuting attorneys may be."

Upon that premise, white and negro leaders today hailed the action of Senator Duncan T. O'Brien of Harlem, in beginning a drive to force through the State Legislature a resolution asking Congress to enact a Federal anti-lynching law.

Two such resolutions are now before the Legislature. One was introduced by Senator O'Brien. The other, introduced several weeks ago by Assemblyman Story, was passed by the Assembly. It is now in committee.

BACKS FEDERAL LAW.

Congressman Anthony J. Griffin, of the Bronx, asked to express his opinion on Federal anti-lynching laws, replied:

"Several years ago I not only voted for such a law, but spoke for it. I shall certainly vote for an anti-lynching law if one is introduced in Congress. Even though Southern States in late years have made some progress in suppressing mob rule, I believe a Federal law should be enacted to take care of those which still are backward in this respect."

A. Philip Randolph, speaking for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, replied succinctly:

"The Southern States are not competent to deal with lynching. Federal laws are urgently needed."

HITS CIVIC FOUNDATIONS.

George W. Harris, negro journalist and former Alderman, said:

"The crime of lynching is not only an invasion of the rights of a large and loyal group of citizens, but also an assault on the very foundations of government. If law and order are not to prevail because a defendant's face is black, and if every defendant is not to have his day in court, the Constitution of the United States is a scrap of paper, as worthless to white citizens as it is to negroes.

"Indeed, we believe that the present wave of outlawry has as its origin, the mob law that has been regnant in the Southern States since slavery."

BEGINS DRIVE TODAY.

Senator O'Brien was to begin his attempt to get action on either the Story resolution or his own today.

"I am resolved to get one of those resolutions passed, if it is possible," Senator O'Brien said today. "It doesn't matter which. The thing that matters is that New York State must go on record as urging Federal laws to combat lynching.

State and county officers in the South too often have proved themselves in sympathy with the mobs, and unwilling to arrest those who take part in lynchings. Even when such officers make arrests, convictions seldom are obtained.

"Bold and enterprising Federal officers and prosecuting attorneys, who are not dependent on local votes for their jobs, may be able to succeed where others have failed."

LEADER

Pontiac Ill.

APR 9 1931

MORE LYNCHINGS.

In 1929 there were lynchings in this country in only five states. There were only ten lynchings in the whole year. That marked a low point, and it was welcomed as a sign of the abatement of mob spirit and the growth of respect for the legal processes of justice. It was felt that more citizens were aware of the national shame of lynching and more public authorities were ready to meet their responsibility in preventing mob violence.

Then came 1930. In the past year there were 21 lynchings scattered through nine states. The record has been worse in the past, but this is disheartening because it shatters the hope that improvement was permanent and lynching was approaching the vanishing point.

A distinguished Hungarian scholar who has recently become an American citizen has referred to racketeering and lynching as "specifically American." Among our many good traits and achievements and some bad ones which we share with other nations, he found those two things unique. They present a challenge which thoughtful citizens are anxious to meet, and which must be met if we are to retain our self-respect as a nation.

AKRON, O.
TIMES-PRESS

APR 21 1931

One Woman And A Mob

A COURAGEOUS woman last Saturday saved one Negro from a mob in Tennessee while in a nearby town another Negro was taken from the jail and hanged in the Courthouse yard.

The sheriff's wife who saved the Negro, saved justice.

While we wish there were more like her, neither Tennessee nor any other states should have to depend upon lone women to avert the stigma of mob violence.

There should be a federal statute outlawing lynching, and federal enforcement.

The Republican Party's platform of 1928 said:

"We renew our recommendation that the Congress enact at the earliest possible date a federal anti-lynching law so that the full influence of the federal government may be wielded to exterminate this hideous crime."

In an official document issued recently by the Republican National Committee, the party's platform pledges are listed in one column, and in a parallel column is told what has been done to fulfill each of them. Beside the anti-lynching plank is a blank space.

Yet, President Hoover said: "Platform pledges must not be empty gestures."

This should be remembered by the Republican spokesmen now barnstorming the South.

Meanwhile, what do the Democrats propose to do about the national disgrace of lynching?

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

White Press, (Northern.)

3305

NEW YORK SUN

JAN 14 1931

ASSAILS LYNCHING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Gov. Richards Sends Last Message to Legislature.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 14 (A. P.).—Gov. John G. Richards denounced lynching and slot machines, praised prohibition and deplored lawlessness today in his final message to the South Carolina General Assembly. The Governor retires on Tuesday next to be succeeded by Ibra C. Blackwood of Spartanburg.

"I had hoped," he said, "that there would be no lynchings in South Carolina during my administration, and that the stigma and disgrace which attach to those who engage in that barbarous and degenerating crime would never again be charged to our people. Order had been maintained until the past year, when there were two lynchings added to the State's already shameful record. Both could have been prevented.

"In Oconee county, the sheriff was wounded in defending his prisoner and is to be commended for his bravery, but he was remiss in that he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety. The Union county lynching is another story. In this case the Sheriff cannot escape his responsibility. He did not appeal to or notify the Governor his prisoner was in danger. There is evidence that the Sheriff was present when the lynching took place, and although it was bright daylight and the lynchers were not disguised, he testified at the coroner's inquest he did not know any of them."

He asked that a law be passed "requiring Sheriffs in all capital cases to report the matter to the Governor as soon as possible and in case of a lynching, if it is shown that the Sheriff failed to discharge his duty, that the Governor be empowered to remove the Sheriff from office."

Discussing prohibition, the Governor said: "I have striven to uphold the law, but I have not had the sympathy and cooperation that the welfare of this State so greatly needs and deserves. The slot machine he described as "the most wicked gambling device ever conceived by the devil."

GREENSBURG, PA.
REVIEW

JAN 14 1931

Missouri's Tragedy

Missouri starts the new year with the ghastly lynching of a negro who was said to have been the slayer of a 19 year old school teacher at Marysville, that state.

All of the horrible details as related in connection with the lynching leaves no doubt whatsoever as to the premeditation of the mob which carried out the deed. After securely chaining the victim to the rafters of the schoolhouse, with no chance for escape, the building was burned.

The murder of the young school teacher was one of the most atrocious crimes that state has had in a long time. Public feeling growing out of it was whipped into a complete frenzy.

However, what the state of Missouri has to think about is that the sheriff, whose prisoner was taken from him, shows no disposition to arrest any of the ringleaders in the crime, and a troop of National Guardsmen, called out for the purpose of preventing such an occurrence, remained in their barracks because the technicality of a formal call from the sheriff stood in the way of interference, according to the commander's point of view.

There seems to be little doubt that had the law been permitted to take its course, the negro would have paid the penalty for his crime in short order. It's something concerning which the state of Missouri should give serious thought. The mob principle of the law passing precipitately into the hands of an indignant public is a sword which can cut both ways and in many different direction on various occasions.

The trials and tribulations of the Republican national committee are on the increase. Alfred E. Smith, who was the presidential candidate of the Democratic party in 1928, is asking for an apology in connection with a cartoon which was circulated concerning him. Considering the many difficulties which the national committee has on its hands at the present time, the chances are Mr. Smith will be compelled to wait a little while until due consideration can be given his request

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NEW BRITAIN, CONN
HERALD

JAN 1 8 1931

THE ATROCIUS LYNCHING IN MISSOURI

Good folks down in Missouri, from the governor down, are declaring that the burning to death of Raymond Gunn was a "regrettable incident." Bad folks to the number of 2,000, many in automobiles, participated in the atrocious spectacle of mob murder, either as satisfied spectators or as direct participants. Probably the majority of residents of Missouri are deeply shocked at the manner and method of this torture and killing; but few of these, it appears from press accounts, were near the scene at Maryville when the vengeance of the mob broke loose.

Raymond Gunn, it appears, was what is described down that way as a "no account negro." Once before he had served a prison sentence for an attack upon a girl. In prison he was not reformed. The attack and murder upon Velma Colter, a 19 year old school teacher, was a grewsome deed. The crowd was intent upon vengeance. Gunn, while being dragged to his funeral pyre, which consisted of the school house where the crime was committed, confessed, so members of the mob say.

A lynching, after all, is a lynching, a low form of mob brutality that sets at naught law and tramples under foot the finer susceptibilities of mankind. There is nothing of civilization in it. States where lynchings stil survive are looked down upon by their sister states of the Union.

It is not a question whether this worthless scamp deserved to die. The issue that confronts Missouri is why the National Guard was not guarding the officers of the law when violence was expected; why the sheriff did not notify the mobilized National Guard to be at the court house; why the worthless scamp was given up without a fight to a crack-brained mob bent only upon vengeance rather than justice.

The murdered school teacher now is avenged. She taught her pupils principles of patriotism, of respect for law, to restrain their passions, to look to justice to right the wrongs.

SOUTHERN WOMEN AND LYNCHING.

Times
1-18-31
New York Times

Our Atlanta Watch-Tower correspondent tells today of a new movement against lynching in the South which will heartily commend itself to other sections of the country. Its novelty no less than its importance marks a changing sentiment and a moving age. There have always been two stock justifications of lynching of Negroes by Southern communities. One is that swift reprisal is necessary to defend the lives and properties of the whites. But chief emphasis has been given to the argument that lynching is imperative for the protection of Southern women.

Yet what Mr. HARRIS'S dispatch describes is the formation of the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching. The organizers, among them prominent and representative women, repudiate the justification of lynching as done for the protection of their sex. They expressed humiliation at the attitude of the peace officers. They characterized the crime as "a greater menace to our homes, our chil[illegible] country than any other." A c[illegible] education among the wom[illegible] the Southern States was determined [illegible] on. And while they were passing their resolution the Police Chief of Macon, a definitely Southern city with a large Negro population, was telling the State Interracial Commission that mob law not only should be put down, but, by the adoption of the simplest methods, could be put down.

There is no doubt that these are significant steps. The Chief of Police approaching the matter practically charged the law's delay and "crooked lawyers" with much of the responsibility for public violence. Unquestionably this conjunction has been used to persuade many otherwise reputable citizens that culprits will go unpunished if permitted to await the due process of law. A Southern community, aroused by this particularly revolting crime, is easily inclined to condone the lynchers on that basis. It is a matter of record that two or three examples of swift justice against those who have committed rape have done more to change the temper of a region and to reduce lynching than all the excellent moral precepts cited against violence.

Between them, police officials and the Georgia women should be able to remove this blot from Southern civilization. Not that the South is alone in its tendency to put the law in such cases into the hands of the mob. There are too many other examples elsewhere. But the argument about "protecting womanhood" is not employed to such an extent in the rest of the country. The Georgia women have answered that. The prescription of the Macon Police Chief is the effective suggestion for

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N.Y. HERALD

JAN 14 1931

Where Does the Governor of Missouri Stand

"No Governor with a backbone stronger than an eel's and a heart with more courage than a rabbit's should let his constituents believe for a moment that he will allow lynchers to escape detection and prosecution to the last limit of a sovereign state's power." The quotation is from "The Atlanta Constitution," one of many Southern papers which have spoken out bravely against that lowest expression of human bestiality, lynching. It applies with as much force in Missouri ~~as in Georgia~~.

"There might have been bloodshed if the armed Guard had been called out," said the sheriff who failed to do his duty and let a Maryville mob take a Negro prisoner out and burn him alive. His backbone seems to have been as flexible as an eel's his conception of his duty as lax as that of Texas's Governor, Dan Moody, who last summer was reported as instructing his Guardsmen to "hold the Negro, if possible, but don't shoot anybody"; his loyalty to the law which he is sworn to support as lax as that of Senator Cole Blease, of South Carolina, who declares, oratorically and irrelevantly, that "whenever the Constitution comes between men and the virtue of the white women of South Carolina, I say, 'To hell with the Constitution!'" It remains to be seen where the Governor of Missouri stands.

We have had in the last year what a committee of Southern women calls a "shocking resurgence of mob violence," a recrudescence of the appalling business of burning men alive. It had seemed at last as if this dark custom were dying out. North

Carolina, until 1930, had not had a lynching for nine years; the annual totals, which had once reached into the hundreds, had descended steadily until in 1929 only ten were recorded in the entire country. "Ten years from now," said Will W. Alexander, of Atlanta, director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, which has been doing so much to build a new era in the South, "we will be wondering how it ever happened." That was in January, 1930. In the succeeding twelve months the annual total of lynchings shot up to twenty-five. Something went wrong. The economic depression may have some curious psychological relation to it. One of the obvious causes is the laxness and indifference of a few high officials, who do not seem to realize what black shadows such crimes cast over their states.

Missouri is one of the border states where, as in North Carolina and Virginia, lynching had about died out. The Governor of Georgia refused to take any interest in a recent lynching at Darien, even when it was reported to him that the Sheriff of McIntosh County had flatly stated: "I don't know who killed the Negro, and I don't give a damn." We may be permitted to hope that the Governor of Missouri is made of different stuff.

STAR
TERRE HAUTE, IND.

JAN 10 1931

SHERIFFS VS. LYNCHERS.

A change in the law is not always an improvement, as was disclosed in the arguments to quash the affidavit charging former Sheriff Campbell of Grant County with failure to perform his duty. He was in control of the jail last August when a mob took from his custody two colored men and hanged them to a tree in the Court House yard. The attorney general filed the affidavit under a law which calls for a fine of $1,000 and removal from office on conviction.

The present statute replaced one which provided that a sheriff automatically was removed from office when prisoners were taken from him and lynched. There were teeth in the old law. A sheriff who will permit men to be removed from his custody and be hanged should not have a second chance. He plainly demonstrates he is not the man for the job entrusted to him. It should not be necessary to convict him of having done something that is evident to everyone.

The farcical features of the present law are apparent from the fact that the Grant County ex-sheriff is out of office and cannot be removed. He finished his term without penalty on that score. A fine of $1,000, such as the law calls for, would be inadequate. The state does not want money payment or men who must be tried in order to get them out of office when they fail to protect their prisoners.

The advantage is all in favor of a sheriff. If he uses due diligence and has the proper courage and respect for his own responsibilities he is practically certain to frustrate any mob attempt. If he cannot protect the prisoners in his care he should give way to someone who can. Excuses or fines cannot compensate for failure in such cases.

EDUCATORS DENOUNCE INCREASE IN LYNCHINGS

N.Y. Times

Southern Leaders Call for Resolute Public Opinion to Punish Participants in Crimes.

1-5-31

New York N.Y.

Twenty-nine Southern educators issued yesterday through the Fellowship of Reconciliation, 383 Bible House, Astor Place, a manifesto on lynching, asserting that such crimes trebled in 1930.

"Lynching is more than a crime," the manifesto says. "It boldly thwarts the most elementary ends of justice, constitutes a complete denial of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and represents anarchy in its most vicious and insolent form. It flagrantly strikes at the foundations of all organized social life and outrages every ideal of liberty.

"Although in recent years the number of lynchings has been diminishing, this year has seen a resurgence of this unspeakably brutal thing and an increase in the number of instances where offenders have been unwilling or unable to protect alleged criminals from mob murder. * * * We call upon press, pulpit and school and every patriotic citizen to assist in arousing a resolute public opinion that will uphold the protecting arm of common justice, and we insist upon the prosecution of every person who participates in any act of lynching and of every officer who in any manner condones it."

The signers of the manifesto were:

ALBERT E. BARNETT, Scarritt College.
LUANNA J. BOWLES, Fisk University.
THOMAS ELSA JONES, president Fisk University.
J. L. KESLER, Vanderbilt University.
JOHN KNOX, Fisk University.
J. J. MULLOWNEY, president Meharry Medical College.
Mrs. ALVA TAYLOR, Nashville.
HOWARD KESTER, Vanderbilt University.
WILSON NEWMAN, Nashville.
GEORGE HAY, Medina, Texas.
FRANK ONDERDONK, San Antonio, Texas.
A. B. CLARKE, Hopewell, Va.
IDA SITLER, Hollins College, Va.
Professor JOE CONNALLY, Paine College, Augusta, Ga.
B. E. MAYS, Atlanta.
H. W. POPE, Atlanta.
HOWARD THURMAN, Atlanta.
HAZEL NORTH CARTER, Columbus, Ga.
PAUL HARRIS, Louisville.
G. BARRETT RICH, Lebanon, Ky.
J. H. KING, New Orleans.
ELISABETH GILMAN, Baltimore.
FERN BABCOCK, St. Louis.
J. H. HORSTMANN, St. Louis.
CHARLES A. ELLWOOD, Duke University, Durham, N. C.
ELBERT RUSSELL, Duke University, Durham, N. C.
J. H. HAMLIN, Wilson, N. C.
WILHELMINA HYDRICK, Durham, N. C.
STAN R. PIER, Stillwater, Okla.

TRIBUNE
CHEYENNE, WYO.

JAN 18 1931

WHEN AMERICA IS SHAMED.

Were you among those who followed with amazement and amusement news reports of a recent treason trial in Russia? If so you since doubtless have been thinking of the Russian people in terms of that opera bouffe affair—and egregiously misconceiving them.

News went out from America yesterday of the lynching of a negro in Missouri with melo-dramatic embellishments. Russians who read that news, and the peoples of other countries as well, will think of Americans in terms of that starkly horrid, theatrically arranged tragedy.

Not a pleasant thought, that, is it?

We are concerned regarding whether other people's conceptions of us are accurate, whether we are given credit for our virtues as well as criticized for our shortcomings—whether the "picture" they have of us is of us as we really are.

Unhappily for our pride people elsewhere formulate ideas regarding us largely from news reports and accept the news report of some especially sensational happening as reflective of national conditions and national disposition rather than—as was that grisly Missouri crime against civilization—of an expression of the hysteria of a few enraged folk in one community among many thousands of communities.

So people in other lands today are pointing the finger of scorn at America because a mob at Maryville, Mo., (a place the average American never heard of before), ran amok and indulged the spirit of barbarism by burning a man to death.

Ugh!—but what can we do about it?

KANSAS CITY, MO
STAR

JAN 13 1931

The Lynch Law in Britain.

One section of a recent report on capital punishment in Great Britain deserves special attention here, as a result of the lynching that has just disgraced the state of Missouri. A committee of the British house of commons, considering the advisability of abolishing the death sentence, was confronted with the argument that such action might merely lead the public to perform the execution itself in those cases where opinion was strongly aroused. Abolish capital punishment for murder, it was contended, and we shall have lynch law in Great Britain. The committee rejected this line of reasoning, with the following comment:

> Such courses (lynching) are alien to the genius and habits of the British people. During this century, from 1901 to 1929, 327 murderers have been reprieved, some of them guilty of the most horrible and atrocious crimes; yet public opinion, while it might not always approve their reprieve, never resorted to mob violence, even when it drew fierce contrasts between those executed and those reprieved.

In other words, no matter how horrible the rime, even in those instances where the Brit-h public has felt there was a miscarriage of ustice through the use of executive clemency, it has never resorted to mob murder. For this and other reasons the majority of the committee recommended the suspension of capital punishment throughout Great Britain for an experimental period of five years. It is significant that the committee found no connection between lynching and the absence of the legal death penalty in any part of the United States. The old defense of lynch law, hat it is used for fear the prisoner might scape proper punishment, is again discredited.

BROOKLYN TIMES

JAN 15 1931

LYNCHING CONDEMNED

Missouri House in Resolution Denounces Mob Rule.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 15.—A resolution condemning the lynching of a colored man by a mob in Maryville, Monday, was adopted today by the Lower House of the Missouri Legislature.

Representative W. E. Fraeland, sponsor of the resolution, said in asking for a vote that indefinite postponement Tuesday of a resolution criticizing police officers at Maryville had been misconstrued as an apology for the lynching.

Meantime, Representative William Job announced he will introduce a bill providing for sterilization of habitual criminals and criminally insane persons.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
SUN-TELEGRAPH

JAN 15 1931

The Lynching Spirit

Pennsylvania, Too, Has Mobs Who, If Permitted, Would Take the Law in Their Own Hands.

No doubt many readers of the Sun-Telegraph, on noting that a Negro accused of murdering a school teacher was put to death with horrible cruelty by a mob in Missouri the other day, congratulated themselves that in Pennsylvania such an atrocity could not occur.

Let us not be too sure of that.

A Negro was burned at the stake in Coatesville, Pa., within the memory of persons still young.

If it should be said that the feeling in regard to lynching has changed since then, attention can be called to an incident that occurred only day before yesterday which shows the need of guarding against mob law.

Threats were made Tuesday to lynch a Negro slayer in Chester County, and the authorities felt impelled to call for state troopers and details of police from nearby communities to protect the man.

The lynching spirit, while usually submerged, is widespread. That does not make it any the less shameful.

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

White Press, (Northern)

3306

GRAND FORKS, N. D.
Eve. **HERALD**

MAY 6 1931

INVESTIGATING THE SCHAFER LYNCHING.

Some weeks ago reference was made in this column to an investigation by a representative of the Federal Council of Churches of the lynching of Charles Bannon, at Schafer. The Council has just issued a somewhat detailed history of the case, which does not differ essentially from what has already been published. The report summarizes th facts as follows:

1) The crime: a sextuple murder was committed. The murderer confessed. By his actions he appears mentally and morally defective. He lied so readily he could not tell when he was telling the truth.

2) Feeling ran high against the murderer. The officers first took him 60 miles away for safe-keeping. They made countless trips, gave numerous interviews, and gathered a great deal of personal publicity. They delayed the arraignment for trial hoping for additional evidence.

3) Then they took the prisoner back to the scene of the crime, put him in a makeshift jail, and thus gave every chance to a mob. Finally Bannon was seized and lynched.

4) The community is steeped in frontier methods of justice, and Old Testament ideas of retribution.

5) A round of investigations, with the governor assuring us that the matter will not be dropped, is still in process.

To this summary the following recommend tions are attached:

1) Speedier execution of the processes of justice, making it impossible to hold a man from the jurisdiction of the District Court and from trial for such a long time.

2) More preaching and practice of law observance. The laws against murder are just as applicable to a mob of 80 men as to one man.

3) More preaching of New Testament religion, with the awakening of sharper moral sensitiveness.

4) Prompt action of the governor pending investigation in suspending sheriffs and other officers where a prisoner is taken from them and lynched or injured.

5) Strengthening by law, the power of the governor over the county and state officers charged with law enforcement.

In this case there is no question of an innocen man having been done to death, which has often happened when a mob has taken summary action. Neither does it appear that there was anything in young Bannon's mental state to relieve him in any measure of responsibility for his offense. Without going at this time into the question of capital punishment, it can be said without qualification that this man should have been given the extreme penalty provided by the laws of his state for his crime.

The deplorable fact is not that a murderer has been killed, but that a mob has set law at defiance, and in doing so has placed a blot on the reputation of the state. There has been general criticism of the return of Bannon to a poorly equipped jail which could not be adequately defended against a determined onslaught, and this criticism is voiced by the investigator quoted. While this negligence does not excuse the mob, it does place upon officials a share of responsibility for an act which has brought discredit upon the state.

DEMOCRAT
WOODLAND, CALIF.

MAY 1 1931

Increase in Lynchings Challenges Self Respect

In 1929 there were lynchings in this country in only five states. There were only ten lynchings in the whole year. That marked a low point, and it was welcomed as a sign of abatement of mob spirit and the growth of respect for the legal processes of justice. It was felt that more citizens were aware of the national shame of lynching and more public authorities were ready to meet their responsibility in preventing mob violence.

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LEADER
Bellevue, Ia.

APR 30 1931

LYNCHING AND THE LAW

Relatively valueless though human life may seem to be in the scheme of Nature—so carelessly it is spawned, and so doomed it is to physical annihilation—murder, whether done in hot blood or cold, cannot be condoned in any system of rational thinking. Mob lust to kill is peculiarly hideous in this ordered civilization of ours that has created courts of justice.

Never in the south's life, or in the nation's life, so far as this newspaper knows, has a single unsocial, unnatural crime of the sort usually responsible for these lynchings outside the law gone unpunished. Invariably the courts dispose of these offenders, when proved guilty beyond peradventure of doubt, expeditiously and effectively. Premature and violent treatment of these offenders does not merely lynch them, but lynches the law. It violates the decent sense of justice that exists in sane men everywhere.—Birmingham News.

ALBANY, N. Y.
NEWS

MAY 20 1931

A MOB REPELLED

TWO men were shot by National Guardsmen yesterday when a crowd tried to storm the jail at Elberton, Ga., to capture Negroes, charged with attacking a white woman. That is regrettable of course but it is to the credit of the state of Georgia and its officers that this mob was repelled and that the Negroes were saved from the vengeance of a mob.

For once the constituted authorities stood their ground and fought a mob. Every time a mob succeeds in lynching a prisoner it is a disgrace to civilization. Every time such a mob is beaten back and the prisoners saved it is a salutary lesson.

Although mob law frequently arises, there is apparent a growing movement against it in the South. Women of the South have formed organizations against lynching and have declared that lynching is a greater menace to their homes than anything else.

In this case Sheriff S. C. Seymour appears to have acted promptly and effectively. He guarded his prisoners carefully and sent a request for help. Local guardsmen responded and for a time there was a battle with fire hose and tear gas as the principal weapons. Later the troops fired a volley and the mob dispersed. Law and order has asserted itself in Georgia.

Capital
DES MOINES
IOWA

MAY 20 1931

ONE LYNCHING BALKED.

The number of lynchings has so increased in this country in the last year and a half that it is especially gratifying to note the successful repulse of a lynching mob. At Elberton, Ga., the other day, a mob of several thousand bloodthirsty citizens stormed the local jail in an attempt to lynch two Negro prisoners, but in vain.

The city and county officers and the state militiamen showed commendable courage in fighting off the mob, a feat which required the use of tear grenades, smoke bombs, fire hose and machine guns. Men of softer metal would have given in, at least when the mob threatened to blow up the jail.

Too often, sheriffs and other law enforcement officers work in collusion with lynching mobs. They find it convenient to be "overpowered" at a critical moment, or they "happen" to be at some distant place when the prisoners are taken.

The successful fight made by Elberton officers is a fine contrast to such cowardly conduct. It should be an example to all law enforcement officers in the lynching belt.

LEADER
Bellevue, Ia

APR 24 1931

LYNCHING AND THE LAW

Relatively valueless though human life may seem to be in the scheme of Nature—so carelessly it is spawned and so doomed it is to physical annihilation—murder, whether done in hot blood or cold, cannot be condoned in any system of rational thinking. Mob lust to kill is peculiarly hideous in this ordered civilization of ours that has created courts of justice.

Never in the south's life, or in the nation's life, so far as this newspaper knows, has a single unsocial, unnatural crime of the sort usually responsible for these lynchings outside the law gone unpunished. Invariably the courts dispose of these offenders, when proved guilty beyond peradventure of doubt, expeditiously and effectively. Premature and violent treatment of these offenders does not merely lynch them, but lynches the law. It violates the decent sense of justice that exists in sane men everywhere.—Birmingham News.

NEW YORK
NEWS

MAY 7 - 1931

LYNCHERS SEEK DOUBLE SLAYER

Water Valley, Miss., May 6 (AP).—A mob intent on lynching Sam Green, 19, colored, left here today in twelve autos to find what jail Green had been taken to. The mob's first stop was Greenwood, sixty miles from here, but

Green had been taken from Greenwood by Sheriff C. T. Doyle after he had confessed slaying W. B. Wagner, banker, and his wife, Mrs. Mamie Wagner, with an ax Monday night.

ROME, N. Y.
SENTINEL

MAY 19 1931

Mob Repulsed from Jail.

We have so many occasions for denouncing the weakness of county and state authorities before mobs bent on lynching Negro and other prisoners, that it becomes a pleasure to recognize the effective action of those in Georgia which drove the mob from the jail at Elberton Monday night. The initial action does not appear to have been either bold or prompt. Indeed, it is difficult from the report at hand to understand why the prisoner was not removed from his cell when the mob invaded the jail. Had the cell door of its lock proved less strong, probably it it would have been done.

However, what between the use of streams of water from the fire department hose, the hurling of gas bombs and, finally, the discharge of firearms, the crowd was finally diverted from its unlawful and abhorent purpose. Authorities of other counties, studying the narrative may well reflect on the need for keeping would-be lynchers out of jails in the first place, and then for a little more vigorous action than at Elberton against the men milling about on the outside. Nothing counts more under such circumstances than a show of bold determination at the very start.

N. Y. EVENING POST

MAY 8 - 1931

LYNCHING STORY DEFENDED

Reporter, Bailed, Says He Believed Story Accurate

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 8 (AP).—Gerald Kelley, a reporter for the Memphis, Tenn., Press-Scimitar, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, was free under $1,000 bond today on a charge of criminal libel for reporting that a lynching mob had formed here Wednesday.

Sheriff C. T. Doyle denied the story that a mob went to Greenwood to lynch Sam Green, accused of slaying Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wagner with an ax Monday

night. Kelley said he believed his report accurate.

PORTLAND, ME.
PRESS HERALD

MAY 25 1931

Maine's Only Lynching,

A short time ago one of America's leading magazines published a table showing the number of lynchings which had occurred in this Country during a period of years in the several states. In this table it appeared that Maine was charged with having had a lynching in 1926.

The fact is that Maine is one of three states which have no record of a lynching since 1836. New Jersey and Connecticut were the other two states with such an excellent record. The State of Maine has had no lynching since 1873 and its first and only lynching occurred in that year near Presque Isle, in Aroostook County. On that occasion James Cullen, slayer of Deputy Sheriff Granville A. Hayden and a man named Hubbard was strung up by the roadside.

Cullen was charged with the larceny of a small amount of goods in a store. He was arrested by a deputy sheriff in a camp near Mapleton. During the night Cullen killed the deputy sheriff and a man named Hubbard with an axe and set fire to the camp, partially burning the bodies of his victims. A man named Swanson and a boy named Bird Witnessed the murder but were spared by Cullen on their promise not to disclose the crime.

Cullen was captured by a posse of men and taken to the store in the village where he was kept for some time. His captors then started with him for Presque Isle. Outside the village the vehicle in which they were riding was stopped by a gang of men with masked faces. They took Cullen to the roadside and strung him up to a tree. The lynchers then made their escape and their identity was never disclosed.

This was the only lynching that ever occurred in Maine. That was 58 years ago. There has never even been an approach to a lynching anywhere in the State. The record of this State in this respect is about the cleanest in the Nation.

Lynchings-1931.
6

White Press, (Northern.)

3307

Discussions.

SALEM, MASS.
NEWS

MAY 28 1931

LYNCHING STOPPED

When lynchings occur in the less disciplined communities, it often looks as if the authorities made no determined effort to suppress the mob. At Elberton, Georgia, the other day, when a lynching was threatened, the mayor and other officials appealed to the governor of the state. A detachment of the National guard appeared on the scene. These soldiers did not tolerate any foolishness, and they used tear gas bombs and finally fired on the crowd. They evidently tried not to hurt anyone too seriously, and the only casualty was the case of one man shot in the leg. These somewhat mild measures proved sufficient to quell the rioters, suggesting that a moderate show of determination would be sufficient in most cases to put down the lawless elements.

CROOKSTON, MINN.
TIMES

MAY 6 - 1931

What Our Neighbors Think

Investigating the Schafer Lynching

Some weks ago reference was made in this column to an investigation by a representative of the Federal Council of Churches of the lynching of Charles Bannon, at Schafer. The Council has just issued a somewhat detailed history of the case, which does not differ essentially from what has already been published. The report summarizes the facts as follows:

1. The crime: a sextuple murder was committed. The murderer confessed. By his actions he appeared mentally and morally defective. He lied so readily he could not tell when he was telling the truth.
2. Feeling ran high against the murderer. The officers took him 60 miles away for safe-keeping. They made countless trips, gave numerous interviews, and gathered a great deal of personal publicity. They delayed the arraignment for trial hoping for additional evidence.
3. Then they took the prisoner back to the scene of the crime, put him in a makeshift jail, and thus gave every chance to a mob. Finally Bannon was seized and lynched.
4. The community is stepped in frontier methods of justice, and Old Testament ideas of retribution.
5. A round of investigations, with the governor assuring us that the matter will not be dropped, is still in process.

To this summary the following recommendations are attached:

1. Speedier execution of the processes of justice, making it impossible to hold a man from the jurisdiction of the District Court and from trial for such a long time.
2. More preaching and practice of law observance. The laws against murder are just as applicable to a mob of 80 men as to one man.
3. More preaching of New Testament religion, with the awakening of sharper moral sensitiveness.
4. Prompt action of the governor pending investigation in suspending sheriffs and other officers where a prisoner is taken from them and lynched or injured.
5. Strengthening by law, the power of the governor over the county and state officers charged with law enforcement.

In this case there is no question of an innocent man having been done to death, which has often happened when a mob has taken summary action. Neither does it appear that there was anything in young Bannon's mental state to relieve him in any measure of responsibility for his offense. Without going at this time into the question of capital punishment, it can be said without qualification that this man should have been given the extreme penalty provided by the laws of his state for his crime.

The deplorable fact is not that a murderer has been killed, but that a mob has set law at defiance, and in doing so has placed a blot on the reputation of the state. There has been general criticism of the return of Bannon to a poorly equipped jail which could not be adequately defended against a determined onslaught, and this criticism is voiced by the investigator quoted. While this negligence does not excuse the mob, it does place upon officials a share of responsibility for an act which has brought discredit upon the state.—Grand Forks Herald.

NEW LONDON, CONN.
DAY

MAY 22 1931

Missouri Lynch Law

THE legislature of Missouri passed an anti lynching law which was supposed to have teeth in it. The governor gave it the once over and decided that the "dental" work was not up to standard and so he vetoed the measure. The legislature overlooked one vital point, according to the governor, and this point is that the law, as passed, makes no provision for the punishment of county sheriffs guilty of neglect of duty.

An examination of the text of the law shows that the legislators framed it to provide for the punishment of acts of neglect by a state or municipal officer. Whether or not this was by design has not been brought out. For the information of those not up on Missouri doings the supreme court of that state has repeatedly ruled that a sheriff is not a state or municipal officer, and thereby hangs the tale. It can be seen, therefore, that the legislature would exempt the one official upon whom falls the task of protecting prisoners from mob action.

The governor declared it to be the "high duty" of the sheriff to stand off mobs; and that is something gained. He also recommended that a bill be passed to create a tribunal, outside of one with county functions, empowered to remove a derelict county official and that is a great idea which might be followed by other states.

TIMES
KANSAS CITY, MO.

MAY 26 1931

HOW LYNCHING THRIVES.

Editorial Opinion of the New York Sun.

Governor Caulfield of Missouri has vetoed an antilynching bill passed by the legislature of that state on the ground that it failed to place on sheriffs sufficient responsibility for protecting prisoners from mobs. The measure proposed to punish with fines and imprisonment state and municipal officers failing to do their duty, but a sheriff, the governor said, is an officer belonging to neither of these classifications. The governor pointed out a further weakness in the legislation:

> Lynching is murder, punishable by death, but the present statute against murder is not effective to punish lynching because the state is not allowed to take a change of venue, and prosecution must be held in the county where the crime occurred, and where, usually, the state of the public mind is not favorable to conviction. This bill would suffer from the same infirmity, and it would have no effect to prevent lynching.

Sheriffs, the governor might have added, not only are supposed to keep their prisoners in safe custody, but also are primarily responsible in Missouri for summoning jurors. In rural counties the sheriff's office represents also about the only moderately efficient police force or constabulary. To exempt the sheriff from punitive provisions of the statute would amount almost to nullification in any county wherein that official's sympathy happened to be with the mob.

Lynching is a crime that can be stopped whenever the people of a community or state really want to stop it; it will be stopped whenever and wherever constituted authority is firmly resolved to do its duty and courts and juries can be depended upon to see that appropriate punishment is meted out to the guilty.

NEW YORK TELEGRAM

MAY 7 – 1931

SHERIFF SCARES JAIL MOB AWAY

Machine Guns on Steps with Orders to Kill Turns Off Posse After Negro.

By the United Press.

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 7.—A mob which drove some fifty miles overland in this area in an attempt to capture Sam Green, 19, Negro house boy, who allegedly confessed to murdering his employer, Will B Wagner, 64, wealthy bank president, and Mrs. Wagner, returned here empty-handed last night.

Leaders of the posse which formed yesterday after officers said they had obtained a confession from the Negro. They said they were convinced sheriff's officers had outwitted them by hurrying the prisoner to Jackson, the State capital.

Sheriff S. R. Coleman, of Greenwood, met the mob with two machine guns mounted on the steps of the jail. Threats of the crowd to enter the jail forcibly and search it were dissipated when the Sheriff said he had instructed his deputies to "kill any man" attempting to force his way through.

The slain couple were buried here yesterday, and it was following the service that several automobile-loads of men left here en route to Greenwood. Spokesmen in the crowd said they intended bringing the Negro back to Water Valley, where he would be put to death.

Jackson is some 150 miles from here, and it was believed unlikely that any attempt would be made by the men to go to Jackson tonight and demand custody of the prisoner.

LONGMONT, COLO.
DAILY CALL

APR 18 1931

Longmont Man Prevented Lynching 20 Years Ago

How the bravery of a late Longmont resident, M. P. Capp, then sheriff of Boulder county, prevented a lynching at Lafayette twenty years ago is told in the Boulder Camera by Max Vawter.

Capp, who was born on a farm in Missouri in 1860, came to Longmont in 1904. First he was a druggist here and later a real estate dealer until his election as sheriff in 1908. His popularity among the Lafayette and Erie miners won him reelection in 1910. In 1912 he was defeated for secretary of state, but in 1913 was appointed warden of the state reformatory and was successful in carrying out his duties.

April 16, 1911, Sheriff Capp faced a mob of 500 enraged miners, half of whom were armed, as it seethed around the Lafayette jail in which four murderers were imprisoned. Inside, in their cells, the four, a Mexican father and his three sons who had brutally murdered a miner, cringed.

On a box where all might see and hear him, the sheriff made an eloquent plea for the lives of his prisoners. The respect of the miners, which he had won by preserving and sympathetic handling of the strike situation, got him an audience in the turbulent throng.

"If you must kill some one, kill me," Capp shouted in answer to the demand for blood. 'Before a hand is laid upon these prisoners, you will have to kill me. Lynching means that my successor will have to arrest you boys, not only for the murder of the four Mexicans, but for the cold-blooded murder of myself and my deputies who are stationed here to do their duty. It means troops and a reign of terror."

In five minutes his powerful speech, with its blunt appeal had swung the mob around to his side. The mob began breaking up. In a short time, the sheriff and his aides were able to transfer their prisoners into a car sent from Boulder by the Daily Camera, driven by A. A. Paddock. An hour later the four prisoners were delivered to the county jail in Boulder.

So it was that a bloody and lawless incident was avoided, and the record of Boulder county was kept clean through the courage of a man who was not afraid to do his duty, a man who gained a high place in the estimation of his fellowmen during his term of office as sheriff from 1908 to 1912.

Capp was killed, July 31, 1927, while attempting to rescue a boy who had been electrocuted on a high tension power line near Boulder Falls. He had found the boy's body lying near a shack of the Lucky 2 mine, but not knowing the cause of his death, Capp came in contact with the wire which had caused it. A charge of 13,000 volts went through his body, and he fell dead into the arms of his brother-in-law, Clarence P. Willey, overseer of Boulder canon road, who had come up in answer to his call.

Christians of

Capital
Albany. Mo.

MAY 7 1931

NEW WEAPON AGAINST MOBS

Investigations of mob activities have shown that more lynchings than actually occur from year to year are prevented by the vigilance and courage of officers in charge of prisoners. It is further shown that in perhaps one-half or more of the instances in which the mob succeeds in its work, there has been official negligence, deliberate or otherwise, in the handling of prisoners. It is therefore clear that strict performance of duty on the part of officers who have taken an oath to maintain law and order is a vital factor in the lessening of mob violence.

The anti-lynching bill now approved by both the senate and house of Missouri is primarily designed to make this factor operative in the state. It would place heavy penalties upon the sheriff or other officers who conspired with any member or members of a mob for the release of a prisoner, or who, through negligence or incompetency, permitted that release. It would penalize the mob member conspirator, as well, thus re-enforcing existing statutes which are broad enough to cover the general offense of participation in mob violence.

This measure, when made effective, would afford no absolute guarantee that the state would be saved from the disgrace of lynchings, but it should prove a valuable means of protection to that end.—Kansas City Times.

COLUMBUS, O
DISPATCH

MAY 15 1931

Lynching Worst Crime, Sophs Say

Students Frown on Drinking, Favor Divorce And Birth Control.

Lynching a Negro is the most wicked thing an individual can do, Ohio State university sophomores decided in a test on moral values, given by Prof. J. Brewton Berry of the department of sociology.

Lynching heads the list of crimes, as seen through the eyes of college second year students. Next in order came participating in a war, stealing, lying for personal gain, hiring children in a factory, suprpessing freedom of speech and driving when drunk.

Gossiping and breaking a law were ranked in the same category, and violating the principles of chastity comes after all the crimes listed above.

The students thought that smoking was "perfectly all right," frowned, but only slightly, on drinking, applauded divorce, indorsed birth control for married couples, were indifferent on the subject of Russia burning churches.

They thought it was pretty poor business to be a movie censor, but voted that betting on football games playing dice and bridge on Sunday was "all right."

Cheating on examinations was condemned.

BULLETIN
NORWICH, CONN.

MAY 20 1931

OPPOSING LYNCH LAW

When lynchings have occurred in southern states it has been evident in most instances that it was in the power of the authorities to have prevented them, or at least to have made a serious try at prevention. When they turn over their keys on request, it gives no indication of an endeavor to uphold the law. Rather does it disclose a resort to the easiest way, if not actual sympathy with mob rule.

No such attitude was displayed by the authorities at Elberton, Ga., when it became evident that a mob was determined to get a Negro, who had been arrested on the charge of attacking a white woman. The accused was behind bars and when it became apparent that the mob was in a position to overpower the jail officials, the city authorities were called upon for assistance and a call was made upon the governor for national guardsmen. Those appeals were answered by the sending of the fire department and two local units of guardsmen to the jail.

It was a large, angry and insistent mob, one that far outnumbered the forces supporting the law, and it became necessary to fire into the threatening attackers and to use tear gas bombs. The result was that the crowd was prevented from getting the Negro and, by a ruse employed by the sheriff, he and another suspect were gotten away from the jail and taken to Atlanta for safety.

Had such an attack been made upon jails in many sections of the south, there would have been little or no resistance encountered, but the Elberton authorities were of that type, which is revealed from time to time, which recognizes its responsibility and places law and order above mob rule and is ready to defend it.

If there was a display of such an attitude whenever the lynchers set out to make a demonstration, there would be fewer cases of it. The Elberton authorities did not undertake to say that the Negro was innocent. Neither did they presume to find him guilty and take the law into their own hands. Their purpose was to give the law its chance and to insure each person the rights to which he is entitled under the Constitution, and it is gratifying to know that this stand was taken in the state where there has been such a strong sentiment for lynching in the past.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

White Press, (Northern.)

3308

NEWS
NEWPORT, R. I.

MAY 21 1981

GOOD FOR GEORGIA!

We are glad to see that Georgia has escaped the disgrace that would have been hers had those who were determined to murder a Negro suspect been permitted to get the man out of jail.

But Georgia officials acted with commendable promptness and determination. National Guard troops were called out to protect the black man who is accused of a terrible crime against a white woman. The troops were commanded by a man who kept his head and his wits, Colonel G. P. O'Keefe, of the Georgia National Guard. He neither permitted the mob to get within striking distance of their hoped-for victim, nor did he issue orders for his men to fire indiscriminately into the crowd, although the citizen-soldiers were pressed hard, and a good deal of military force would have been justified, if only for defense.

The Mayor of the city of Elberton, the sheriff, the chief of police and the judge of the Elberton City court all joined in an appeal to Governor Hardman for help, as they saw the mob forming, and knew its objective was the Negro prisoner in the jail. Governor Hardman responded at once, and sent State troops to duty. He meant business, too. He gave orders to Adjutant-General Parker that the troops were "there for business." He said that he hoped nobody, either soldier or civilian, would be hurt. "But," he telephoned to the Adjutant-General "I insist that you order your men to shoot any man who attempts to enter the jail."

There was and is no reason to believe that any favor will be shown to the black man who is charged with this heinous offense. There is and was absolutely no excuse for the mob to take vengeance into its hands. Justice, swift and sure, will be meted out to the accused. If he is guilty undoubtedly his punishment will be adequate and not long delayed.

It is to the credit of Georgia, to the credit of the South, to the credit of the United States that law and order have prevailed over the mob spirit, and we congratulate the people of Elberton, and particularly the officials of the grand old State of Georgia who have emerged from this ordeal with such flying colors.

BELOIT, WIS.
NEWS

MAY 21 1931

THEY STOOD THEIR GROUND

GEORGIA has just been saved from the disgrace of a double lynching because National Guardsmen, called to the scene, demonstrated that they meant to be useful as well as ornamental.

After the stream of a fire hose and use of tear gas bombs had failed to disperse a mob of several thousand persons that formed at Elberton, Ga., there was rifle fire that sent bullets into the legs of a couple of would-be lynchers, indicating sufficiently that the guardsmen really meant business.

Their acquittal of duty was markedly different from that of a Missouri guard unit that, although mobilized specifically to prevent a lynching, hugged the protection of their armory and did not raise a finger to deter a mob that paraded down the street and for a couple of miles into the country, to the scene of consummation of a peculiarly bestial lynching orgy.

Their duty was decidedly not a welcome one for the Georgia guardsmen, but the exemplary way in which they stood their ground and preserved the dignity of their uniforms as well as the higher dignity of state law and order deserves appreciation of those of their commonwealth and section who are thoughtfully concerned about the tendency of an augmented lynching evil, that last year claimed twice as many mob-murdered victims as in 1929.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
EXPRESS

MAY 20 1931

Law and Passion

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN of Georgia who on Monday night stood off a mob of several times their own number and prevented a lynching, represent the true spirit and ideal of the South. It is unlikely that any guardsmen cared more than did the would-be lynchers about the fate of the accused prisoners; but they felt that in a civilized community law must be held above passion, and were ready to support the law, just as they would be ready to perform that duty if called upon to execute the decrees of the law. The guardsmen and not the swaggering lynchers are the real defenders of the womanhood and civilization of their state.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
STAR

MAY 25 1931

ANOTHER BLOW AGAINST LYNCHING.

A new attitude toward lynching in the South is revealed by the action of Georgia national guardsmen who not only protected two negro prisoners but shot and wounded members of the assaulting mob. This in spite of the fact that the prisoners were accused of crimes against white women.

In Alabama, a few weeks ago, the state militia held off a mob surrounding a courthouse while nine negro youths were being tried for rape. After they were found guilty, fifteen Southern men living in New York City joined in an appeal to the governor in their behalf. They declared that two women were traveling with a group of white boys in a box car and that the charge against the negroes was a frame-up following a fight between the two groups of men.

If the South puts a stop to lynching, and demands justice in the courts not only against but for negroes, the shame of mob violence will be more embarrassing than ever for Missouri.

JOURNAL
PORTLAND, ORE.

MAY 21 1931

NOW UP TO THE COURTS

FROM Georgia comes an encouraging sign with regard to mob rule.

Two negroes were charged with an attack upon a white girl. A large mob, bent on lynching, stormed the jail where the accused were held. But the usual lynching of the past did not take place. Instead, national guardsmen met the mob and held it at bay until the prisoners were conducted to an institution where they can be held for trial by the courts.

Rule by the mob is not American. It provides for no hearing and no proper trial. It allows no consideration whatever to the accused whether they be guilty or innocent. It is in direct conflict with American law and entirely at variance with the spirit of our institutions.

But the Georgia case places a heavy responsibility upon law enforcement officials and the courts. The matter of a speedy trial is now up to them. The matter of punishment, if it is deserved, is their responsibility, and it is one that should be discharged with the utmost speed and certainty.

If law enforcement officials and the courts had always been what they should have been there would have been less of mob rule. If there had been certainty of early and sure convictions in cases where convictions were warranted there would have been fewer instances in which men whose decency was outraged moved to take the law into their own hands.

The Georgia courts now have a chance to prove, if the men were guilty, that speedy and certain justice can be meted out through the workings of law, and thus eliminate the incentive to mob action.

DAYTON, O.
NEWS

MAY 23 1931

A Lynching Avoided

Drastic action by national guardsmen recently saved Elberton, Ga., the disgrace of a double lynching. Two men charged with criminal assault were housed in the jail. A mob was recruited to do the work of the law. The guardsmen, [illegible] in anticipation of trouble, met the cro[illegible]ady for action. The enraged citizenry ignored orders to stand back and began the attack with a firehose. The mob saw two of its members wounded before it realized that the authorities meant business and dispersed.

Official laxity has paved the way for more than one lynching. In one instance last year a troop of guards with machine guns, supposedly protecting a prisoner, offered no resistance when the mob walked calmly through the lines and got its man. There was a hitch somewhere, it was later explained, in the orders.

The wife of a Tennessee sheriff a month or so ago outwitted a mob. One recalls the fighting sheriff of Texas who changed the mind of a mob by dumping its leader in the dust with a fist. Every lynching is a reflection on the officials of the state and the community in which it occurs. These recent preventions of lynchings, one hopes, are an indication that the country is determined to better the poor record of last year, when the number of such crimes was double that of 1929.

MONTROSE, COLO.
PRESS

MAY 4 - 1931

MORE LYNCHINGS

In 1929 there were lynchings in this country in only five states. There were only 10 lynchings in the whole year. That marked a low point, and it was welcomed as a sign of the abatement of mob spirit and the growth of respect for the legal processes of justice. It was felt that more citizens were aware of the national shame of lynching and more public authorities were ready to meet their responsibility in preventing mob violence.

Then came 1930. In the past year there there were 21 lynchings scattered thru nine states. The record has been worse in the past, but this is disheartening because it shatters the hope that improvement was permanent and lynching was approaching the vanishing point.

A distinguished Hungarian scholar who has recently become an American citizen has referred to racketeering and lynching as "specifically American." Among our many good traits and achievements and some bad ones which we share with other nations, he found those two things unique. They present a challenge which thoughtful citizens are anxious to meet, and which must be met if we are to retain our self-respect as a nation.

Morristown, N.J.

MAY 1 1931

ANTI-LYNCHING ASSOCIATIONS FORMED

Since last November 1 groups of influential women in eleven Southern states have organized state anti-lynching associations and have affiliated themselves with the Anti-Lynching Association of Southern Women, a southwide organization perfected here last year.

Kentucky, which had a lynchless year in 1930, is the latest of the southern states to organize such an association, according to an announcement from the general headquarters here.

The aim of each of the associations is to do everything possible to eradicate all manifestations of the mob mind by building up through all available agencies a public opinion that will no longer tolerate them.

Virginia and Florida are the only two Southern states which remain to be organized, but plans are well advanced for their early enlistment in the movement.

NEW YORK SUN

MAY 8 - 1931

Reporter Under Bonds For Predicting Lynching

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 8 (A. P.).—Gerald Kelley, a reporter for the Memphis (Tenn.) Press-Scimitar, was free under $1,000 bond today on a charge of criminal libel for reporting that a lynching mob had formed here Wednesday.

Sheriff C. T. Doyle denied that any mob congregated and went to Greenwood to lynch Sam Green, Negro house servant ~~accused of slaying~~ Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wagner of Water Valley with an ax Monday night. Kelley said he believed his report accurate.

Littleton Upshur, editor of the Greenwood Commonwealth, and Sam Montgomery, Greenwood business man, posted Kelley's bond. James Joyce, managing editor of the Press-Scimitar, said the paper will "stand by" Kelley as "he has always been a reliable reporter."

BALTIMORE, MD.
SUN

MAY 20 1931

GOOD FOR GEORGIA

Georgia and the entire South needed just such a stand against a lynching party as country officers and national guardsmen made on Sunday at Elberton.

Decency lost ground throughout the South last year in warfare against the rope and faggot. Nowhere was the recession more marked than in Georgia, which has long been notorious as the principal lynching State, and which accounted for seven out of the twenty-five lynchings that occurred in 1930.

Some of the discouragement occasioned by last year's setback will be dissipated as a result of the bold and successful effort to protect the lives of two Negroes against a mob of 1,500 whites assembled at Elberton in the heart of the lynching belt. This effort set an example of courage and determination for law officers everywhere to follow, and at the same time shows how effective a display of such qualities may be.

By the same token it cuts some of the ground from under the feet of those hesitant agents of the law whose frequent inclination to observe the mere forms of defense while actually letting mobs have their way is one of the influences upon which lynching thrives. Former Governor Cameron Morrison put an end to this form of hesitation in North Carolina when he served emphatic notice that there would be no lynchings during his four years in the Gubernatorial office, and then used troops to back up his warning. As a result, North Carolina has had only one lynching in ten years.

In the Elberton incident Georgia adopted the North Carolina tactics. Their application in the face of every threatened lynching would cut down the toll this disgraceful form of violence now takes.

Walla Walla, Wash.
BULLETIN

MAY 20 1931

NINE STATES DISGRACED

Lynching, that diabolical practice which is bred in passion and can only disgrace the fair name of any peoples, increased heavily last year, the commission on race relations of the Federal Council of Churches states.

Twenty-one persons lost their lives through this means in 1930 as compared with less than half this number in 1929. Twenty were negroes and one was white. Nine states were dishonored among the rest of the 48 by their inhabitants through the lynching of humans, like themselves, while only five were so disgraced in 1929.

Five states have never had a recorded lynching: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, all New England states. Idaho and Oregon have no record of a lynching for 15 years while Washington is among eight commonwealths with none during the past five years.

TROY, N. Y.
TIMES

MAY 19 1931

Lynching Attempt Frustrated.

Information from a city in Georgia that desperately persistent attempt of a large mob to lynch a Negro prisoner was frustrated, is real news. The credit for defeat of the crowd of law-defying persons, reported to have numbered from 1,500 to 2,000, belongs to detachments of the National Guard which fortunately were summoned in time. The fire department had turned out to attack the mob with streams, but some of the rioters detached the lines of hose from the hydrants and drove the firemen to flight. Then, as the militiamen appeared on the scene, they were met with streams from the lines of hose which had been connected again. But the soldiers countered with tear bombs and the mob retreated.

A few of the crowd who forced entrance into the jail before the militiamen were called made their way to the Negro's cell, but were restrained by appeals from a Baptist minister who happened to be there, and the Chief of Police.

It seems incomprehensible that in this country, in which obedience to the law is the rule, though there are unfortunately many conspicuous exceptions, rage against a man charged with crime, but in custody and certain to receive the law's penalty if he is proved guilty, can drive hundreds of usually law-abiding citizens to become, for the time, outlaws warring against officials whose duty is to uphold the law.

Evidently it is in order for civic leaders to use every opportunity to impress upon the public, in the region where such outbreaks occur, that attempt to inflict mob punishment upon a person accused of crime is just as much a violation of law as is the act of which the object of mob vengeance is accused.

ALLENTOWN, PA.
CALL

JUL 6 1931

PUBLIC OFFICIALS CUT LYNCHINGS BY COURAGE

Activity by Negro organizations in emphasizing the horrors of lynchings has undoubtedly contributed to the steady decrease in this form of mob violence that was making this country a horrible example of lawlessness.

During the first six months of this year, according to the statistics which have been compiled by Tuskegee Institute, there were five lynchings in the United States as against nine in the corresponding period of 1930. But most significant in the statistics are those which indicate that in fifty-five instances, where all conditions promised the development of lynching bees, public officials protected the intended victims from mobs and held them for trial for their alleged offenses.

Thruout all the controversy about lynching, it was emphasized that strong and determined action by public officials could have prevented many such crimes. But in scores of instances, sheriffs and other officials truckled the mobs or lost their courage in the face of them and turned over victims for the venting of mob fury.

Only a decade ago the country was reporting lynching at the rate of about five a month. In 1901 there were 135, or 11 a month. Now a half year has gone by with but five such crimes.

Progress is being made. The people are getting to learn that lynchings are crimes against the law which is a protection for all. And it is not to be forgotten, that the crime of lynching has been practiced not alone upon Negroes but against whites as well. Passion-blinded mobs do not draw the color line.

Lynchings - 1931

Discussions.

3309

White Press, Northern.

PORTLAND, ME.
EXPRESS

DEC 18 1931

Daily Washington Letter

Three Recent Lynchings Remind Congress Of Legislation Pending For Heavy Financial Fine; Mob Acts Increase, Though Many Victims Are Held Innocent

By Charles P. Stewart, Central Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Congress, before which Federal anti-lynching measures have been pending intermittently for a decade, began business this Winter with three fresh lynchings near by Washington (one in neighboring Maryland, just before the session opened; the other two in not-far-distant West Virginia, just afterward) to remind the lawmakers that the matter still is unattended to.

It seems likely to be agitated considerably in the next few months, however.

Representatives of the National Equal Rights Association recently discussed it with President Hoover, who is said to be favorable to the repeatedly introduced Dyer bill, imposing a stiff financial penalty upon counties where lynchings occur, and legislative backing for the plan's adoption undoubtedly will be available in both congressional chambers.

DEMOCRATIC backing, of course, will be lacking, which, it is true, makes the bill's passage appear unlikely, with the present Jeffersonian majority in the House of Representatives.

That there are strong arguments against it, on states' rights grounds, is indisputable.

Nevertheless, not a bad case can be made out for the contention that states which expect their rights to be respected should act more vigorously to prevent (or, at any rate, to punish) the outraging of national sentiment by such exhibitions of mob violence as the latest ones at Salisbury, Md., and Lewisburg, W. Va., not to mention many others throughout Dixie in the last year.

THERE IS no suggestion, to be sure, that the Negro who was hanged and burned at Salisbury and the two who were strung up and riddled with bullets at Lewisburg were not killers.

Apparently it is unquestioned that Matt Williams, the Marylander, had shot his white employer to death, accusing the employer of underpaying him for his work; that Tom Jackson and George Banks, the West Virginia pair, had slain a couple of constables in a fight at a colored folk's dance.

Yet perhaps it is noteworthy that no offense against white womanhood was charged in either instance.

In fact, records of the National Equal Rights association (for whatever they may be worth) indicate that this charge has been made in connection with fewer than one-fourth of all lynchings in the last 40 years.

THE NUMBER of lynchings again is on the increase, too.

Last year's score was 21, or nearly twice as many as for any previous twelvemonth save one (1926, with a total of 30) since 1923.

The assertion also is made that several of the victims were innocent.

Vigilantes in the old-time West were scrupulous to grant a trial to the prospective subject of a necktie party and really tried to be fair; there even were occasional acquittals.

Scarcely needful to state, the formality of a hearing is unknown preliminary to lynchings of today.

Of 1930's victims, at least, two, according to the Equal Rights association's showing, based on an inquiry by a group of southern investigators, undoubtedly were guiltless of any offense at all, with 11 others "possibly" so.

AS A REFLECTION on the state authorities, the latest Maryland lynching appears to have been especially unpardonable, inasmuch as there were good reasons why they should have been on the alert.

Williams' shooting of his employer was the third crime in the same vicinity in which a black man had been involved within a fortnight, and race feeling was so acute that a lawyer sent by the Civil Liberties Union to defend one of the accused Negroes, having been publicly assaulted without interference by the police, had appealed for protection to Governor Ritchie, who replied that local officialdom was able to maintain order and refused to act.

How far from correct was his estimate of conditions of orderliness in that part of Maryland was demonstrated by the Salisbury lynching a few days later. He embarrassingly had to curtail a visit he was paying to New York, to deliver a presidentially candidatorial speech, in order to make an investigation.

If the investigation leads to anything in particular it will not be quite so bad.

NEW YORK TIMES

DEC 13 1931

REDS PARADE HERE IN RITCHIE PROTEST

Score Maryland Lynching, but Governor Fails to Appear at Republican Club.

DINERS HEAR HIS TELEGRAM

Dean Pound, S. W. Richardson and General Harbord Talk on Forces That Menace the Constitution.

While a message from Governor Ritchie of Maryland, regretting his absence from the speakers' dais, was being read yesterday at a luncheon in the National Republican Club, Communists marched through West Fortieth Street singing the "International," denouncing the Governor and shouting protests against the recent lynching of a Negro in Salisbury, Md.

With advance information that the Communists were to make Governor Ritchie the target for their protests, Inspector Thomas F. Walsh of the Third Inspection District and Captain Michael Wall of the West Twentieth Street station were on hand with five sergeants, fifty patrolmen, mounted men and a reserve force of 200 scattered through Bryant Park and in the rear plaza of the New York Public Library.

The gathering, including only a few Negroes, assembled in a hall at 417 West Fifty-third Street, where leaders urged the demonstration against "the liberal Governor who supports lynching." Reaching Sixth Avenue, about 100 demonstrators marched to Fortieth Street and halted at the corner to engage in oratory.

Unaware that Governor Ritchie was absent, the group, with placards held aloft, turned to the club at 54 West Fortieth Street. Slogans carried by the Communists bore inscriptions such as: "Down with lynching, Jimcrowism and discrimination"; "For the right of the Negro majorities to rule themselves"; "Release the nine Scottsboro boys."

The Communists marched past the club and halted in the street at the south side of the library. At the commands of the police the crowd dispersed and no attempt was made to reassemble.

The demonstration was inspired by the lynching on the night of Dec. 4 of Matthew Williams, the 35-year-old confessed slayer of Daniel J. Elliott, a wealthy manufacturer of Salisbury.

Detained by "Serious Condition."

In his telegram, read at the luncheon by General James G. Harbord, president of the club, Governor Ritchie said he had not allowed anything to prevent his addressing the club as a scheduled speaker, "except a serious condition which requires my personal presence in this State." General Harbord explained that the message had summarized the points on which Governor Ritchie had expected to speak, and quoted the Governor's telegram as follows:

"The forces which menace the Constitution (the subject for discussion at the luncheon) are the forces which menace all those governmental ideals which have made us a great nation and which have been tried and tested in the school of experience. Nothing could so chill our national spirit or retard our returning prosperity or the solution of our political problems as to have our leaders or our people or the growing youth of our land lose faith in American institutions and in the American governmental system, or fail to realize that the revolutionary ideas prevalent in some countries abroad and advocated to an extent here are wholly foreign to the genius of the American people.

"It may not be for us to say what form of government best fits the peoples of other lands, but our form of government is the outgrowth of the long years of a colonial democracy striving to become a nation. Its strength lies in the fact that it gives expression to the traditions, ideals and free spirit that animated our forefathers in their century-old efforts for self-government."

Dean Roscoe Pound of the Harvard Law School, discussing "Forces Menacing the Constitution," saw certain threats from two sides, namely, from "those impatient with any deviation from what they have been brought up on, and a corresponding danger that, in times of political upheaval, we might have sudden, rash and ill-considered changes."

Written for the Future.

He declared that "the glory of our Constitution is that it is a document for the far-distant future as well as for the present." Changes in the Constitution were to be expected to suit changing social and economic conditions, he declared, adding that the Constitution was safe so long as the Anglo-Saxon frame of mind was maintained.

Seth W. Richardson, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, asserted that anarchistic and communistic doctrines presented no more menace in this country today than they had in past years. The real menace to the country, he declared, was in attempts to nullify the Constitution.

"I do not conceive that fear of war against us, or fear of our further participation in wars of other nations, constitutes what may be said today to be a serious menace either against our country or its form of government," he said. "I see no nation of which it may be said that it has any purpose in mind to attack us, and our experience some thirteen years ago would seem to present a sufficient record of experience to fully protect us for the future against military participation in the wars of other people."

General Harbord remarked that "thirteen years after the war, which in the facile phrase of President Wilson was to make the world safe for democracy, there are those who think they hear a call to make democracy safe for the world." He said in the "problems that face us this Winter will come the test of popular government," and "as a greater people we shall survive the storm that rages around us only if we have the cold courage to face realities."

The luncheon marked the opening of the twenty-fourth season of non-partisan Saturday luncheon discussions at the club. The speeches were broadcast over the National Broadcasting Company's system.

New York Evening Journal

Bronx Section

DEC 11

Double Lynching Protested by Negro Body

A telegram protesting against the lynchings of two prisoners at Lewisburg, W. Va., was sent to Governor William G. Conley of West Virginia, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The text of the telegram follows:

"New York papers report taking of Tom Jackson and George Banks from Greenbrier County jail at Lewisburg early today and lynching them, riddling their bodies with bullets. Prisoners were in custody of the law and reports indicate that officials who had taken oath to protect prisoners yielded supinely to the mob. Such wanton and inexcusable neglect makes the law a mockery. We sincerely trust that you as Governor and all of the officials of the State of West Virginia with power to act will proceed vigorously to apprehend and punish the lynchers and to take vigorous action against those officials through whose nonfeasance or malfeasance these mob murders were permitted."

POST
BALTIMORE, MD.
DEC 11 1931

'Boycott Baltimore!' Is Cry of Business Officials on 'Shore

Leaders Meet Tonight at Salisbury 'To Strengthen Reprisal Against City'

APOLOGIES ARE DEMANDED

Object to Stand Taken Here on Lynching of Negro

Maryland's Eastern Shore today boiled with bitterness against Baltimore newspapers and ministers and H. L. Mencken as plans were announced to "strengthen the economic boycott" against Baltimore business houses.

Eastern Shore leaders said there would be no more trade relations between Baltimore and merchants in "at least the Salisbury section" unless the newspapers, the ministers and Mencken make public apology.

Meanwhile, state authorities announced they are pushing the investigation of the recent lynching of Matt Williams, alias Handy, Negro, in Salisbury, and will be ready in a short time to begin the previously announced "vigorous prosecution" of mob leaders.

18 Firms to Meet Tonight

Representatives of 18 lines of Salisbury business have been called into a meeting tonight to "push the boycott idea" and to make plans for other means of retaliation against Baltimore for recent criticism of the Eastern Shore following the lynching.

'Folks Here Very Bitter'

Bulk of the bitterness of Eastern Shore merchants seems to be directed against Mencken, who in a special signed article in a Baltimore paper severely criticized the Eastern Shore mob action.

W. F. Messick, president of the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce, said that while no official action has been taken regarding the boycott, the movement is general and the "folks down here are very bitter."

"The movement is an individual one, with the merchants unofficially working together," Messick said. "The only way Baltimore can win back its Eastern Shore trade is to have H. L. Mencken, some of the Baltimore papers and a number of ministers apologize to the people of the Eastern Shore.

"Some of the folks in this section are very angry at what Mencken wrote Monday. I personally am not offended.

Calls Mencken 'Fool'

"I feel that if a man is as big a fool as Mencken showed himself to be in his recent article, then we should pay no attention to him.

"We cannot control the Baltimore papers on the Eastern Shore. But we do not have to buy them. And if we quit trading with the business men of Baltimore, they may be able to bring the editors around to the apology that is due."

'Just Roosters Crowing'

Mencken, when informed of the attacks made on him, commented briefly:

"That certainly is bad news to the Bible trust. About the only thing Eastern Shoremen buy in Baltimore is a Bible now and then. I have no apoligy to make.

"Some years ago when I suggested that the Eastern Shore be thrown out of Maryland, there was considerable talk about the volume of business done between Baltimore and the Eastern Shore. Nobody ever was able to prove any large volume of trade between the sections.

"This present action—just roosters crowing on a dung heap."

'Ridiculous,' Muller Says

Mencken said he had heard from a number of "intelligent" people of the Eastern Shore, and that they were not bitter against him.

Acting Mayor Lester Muller, of Baltimore, said the whole boycott idea is "ridiculous." He stated:

"The Eastern Shore should hang its head in shame until this whole matter is straightened out. They should devote their energy to aiding in the investigation and prosecution of mob leaders instead of trying to fight criticism, some of which certainly is due.

"This boycott thing is ridiculous. The Eastern Shore merchants will no more quit trading in Baltimore than they will quit buying part of their goods from Philadelphia.

"This lynching has disgraced the State of Maryland, and it now behooves the Eastern Shore to try to clear up its name as quickly as possible—then hit back at those who may or may not have criticized unjustly."

Publishers Cancel Contracts

Alfred and Charles Truitt, publishers of the Salisbury Times, and leaders in the boycott movement, said they already had canceled all Baltimore contracts.

"We feel that Baltimore papers have exaggerated the true conditions on the Eastern Shore, and that an apology is due," Alfred Truitt said. "Mencken's article indicated that everybody on the Eastern Shore was implicated in the lynching—even those of us who were in church at the time or home asleep."

'Cancel $150,000 Contracts'

Charles Truitt said: "Although we hold nothing against the Baltimore business men, we feel that we can get along very well without doing business with Baltimore, and unless there is an apology—we will trade elsewhere.

"Within 48 hours after the boycott was called, more than $150,000 worth of contracts with Baltimore business houses were cancelled."

Post's Answer

Regarding the apology demanded by the Eastern Shore leaders, The Baltimore Post, in an editorial today, says in part:

"We do not wish to be unfair to any part of Maryland or to anything else. We would appreciate it therefore, if the Eastern Shore speaking through its newspapers clergymen or any other agency would explain the point of its objection. . . . .

"We have said that the lynching was a barbarous thing. If any Eastern Shoreman can convince us that it is not, then we will gladly apologize."

Labor Defense Blamed

Mayor E. W. Crem, of Cambridge blames the lynching and subsequent developments, includingg an "unofficial boycott in my section" on the International Labor Defense, nad its attorney, Bernard Ades, for their activity in the murder trial of Orphan Jones, alias Yual Lee.

"We don't particularly blame Mencken for his article," Mayor Orem stated. "It is just his nature to be that way—sarcastic and grouchy.

"It is the whole attitude of the Baltimore papers and the ministers there that have caused the very hot feeling against the city in this section.

"I have been Mayor here for 15 years and I have never seen the people so upset over anything before. The merchants, generally, are following out the boycott idea, I am told."

Mencken Article

The Mencken article, to which particular objection was made, said in part:

"Not many observant Marylanders, I take it, were surprised by the news of last Friday's extraordinarily savage and revolting lynching at Salisbury. Something of the sort had been plainly hatching down in that forlorn corner of the state for a long while. There was a time, years ago, when it was the seat of urbane and charming culture, dominated by an unlightened and public-spirited gentry, but of late it has succumbed to its poor white trash, who now determine its ideas and run its affairs.

"The whole area is a lush stamping-ground for knavish politicians, prehensile professional patriots and whooping soul-savers. It is, quite naturally, a stronghold of prohibition (and of the rot-gut liquors that go therewith), and within its bounds tinpot revivalism is making its last stand in Maryland. . . .

"At least since the World War the lower Shore has been going downhill, mentally and morally. It has been sliding out of Maryland and into the orbit of Arkansas and Tennessee, Mississippi and the more flea-bitten half of Virginia. . . .

"There are no agencies of civilized opinion among them. They must depend for their ideas upon clowns in the pulpit, clowns on the stump, and clowns in the editorial chair. . . ."

The article was printed in the Baltimore Evening Sun, under a signed article entitled "The Eastern Shore Kultur." It was placed on the editorial page of the paper, although not in the editorial columns.

Suggestion that the Eastern Shore withdraw from Maryland and form a separate state of its own was made in an editorial appearing in the Federalsburg Times. This editorial said, in part:

". . . it is only natural that every Eastern Shoreman would take offense at such statements.

"The injustice in the article is plainly evident when he referred to this section as a land of poverty. But then, how was Mr. Mencken to know that the very next day after his article appeared, that one town alone in this poverty stricken area was to cancel $76,000 worth of business from Baltimore."

"And if the rest of that state believes all what was in that editorial which insinuated that the rest of Maryland would be better off without the Eastern Shore then we are ready and willing to severe what broken ties may remain with the Western Shore and Baltimore City, and form a state of our own across the bay."

SENTINEL
Shenandoah, Ia
DEC 8 19[illegible]

THE LYNCHING RECORD

The Kansas City Star gives the records of lynchings in the United States in the last thirty years, showing that 1886 persons had been taken by mobs and executed without process of law, many of them afterwards shown to be innocent.

This gruesome record is almost wholly charged up to the Southern States. Georgia leads the list with 302, Mississippi following with 285 and others in order as follows: Texas 201, Louisiana 172, Florida 170, and Alabama 132.

Coming north Missouri shows a record of only 48, Kansas 8 and then a long list of states with from 1 to 5 while in all New England states, New York, New Jersey and Michigan there was not a single one.

Contrast New York with a population of twelve million and not one lynching with Mississippi with two million population and 285 lynchings.

Just as dastardly crimes are committed in the North as in the South but in the North people generally have been taught to respect the law. The Negro has been the chief sufferer, the policy in the South being that if a Negro is suspected of crime burn him or hang him without a trial but if a white man is suspected excuse him or give him a trial.

ALBANY, N. Y.
KNICKERBOCKER PRESS
DEC 6 1931

THE ANTI-LYNCHING APPEAL

"THE President is not prepared to commit himself on the proposed anti-lynching law" was the conclusion of a delegation of Negroes representing the National Equal Rights League, which had an audience with the Chief Executive, an audience which lasted only a few minutes.

Now Mr. Hoover, who is said to have been "sympathetic," is no approver of lynching. He may, nevertheless, believe that some remedies do more harm than the evils they are intended to cure, and that a Federal anti-lynching law is one of such remedies. But aside from this, his Lily White political affiliations would disincline him to a policy of interference.

Everybody knows that so far as the race issue is concerned, the Hoovercrats of Dixieland stand just where the Democrats stand. Doubtless they regard lynching as something to be discouraged but not by any national law-making.

We are told that the President was equally noncommittal on the request for an executive order ending the segregation of Negroes in executive departments. Here the argument of the colored men is academically unanswerable. Practically many irritations are avoided by what is called segregation, and the plan is not likely to be abandoned while Mr. Hoover is President

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White Press, Northern.

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Dixie Debunks Lynching

Literary Digest

11-21-31

New York, N.Y.

Vol. 111, no. 8

LYNCHING STANDS DEBUNKED.

So says a Southern paper of the slashing report of a Southern commission on lynching.

"It has torn away from the abomination," adds the Macon *Telegraph*, "the veil of chivalry and the mask of protection of womanhood which it has worn, and has revealed it as a stark, ugly thing for which there is no defense."

In the same vein, papers all over the South are praising the commission's report as a step away from the savagery of lynch law, the peculiar form of barbarity which has left a blot on Dixie's name.

A dark picture is painted by the commission, whose findings are summarized in the box on this page. But "an encouraging high light," as the Associated Press points out, is that lynchings fell from the high mark of 255 in 1892 to the low of ten in 1929, with an average of seventeen for each of the last six years.

Turning to the dark side again, at least two of the twenty-one persons lynched in 1930 "certainly" were innocent, says the commission, as quoted by the Associated Press, and eleven others possibly so—

> "Georgia led in contributing to the 3,603 lynchings since 1889 with 465. Mississippi had 464, Texas 364, and Louisiana 349. On the basis of percentage of Negro population, lynchings were most numerous in Florida, with Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas following in order.
>
> "The commission concluded that lynching, while decreasing during the last three decades, was becoming more exclusively a Southern phenomenon, with 97 per cent. of the country's lynchings occurring in the South in recent years against 82 per cent. in earlier decades.
>
> "The commission found 448 attempts at lynching were prevented by prompt action by officers and citizens in the ten years ending with 1929."

Of the offenses that resulted in lynchings in cases examined by the commission, the report said that "one man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men." "The Negro's political impotence" was pointed out as a factor in the "indifference" of officers toward resistance to and prosecution of mobs.

This report is valuable "because it puts in authoritative and impressive form conclusions held for a long time by every enlightened Southerner," declares the Birmingham *Age-Herald:*

> "Men like George Fort Milton, Julian Harris, and Howard Odum have done an excellent job in joining hands with Negro educators of standing for the purpose of driving home to our bosoms and business the cardinal viciousness of lynch law.
>
> "What this survey makes clear beyond dispute is that none of the rationalizations for a resort to lynching holds water.
>
> "What this survey makes clear, furthermore, is that if the authorities have sufficient courage, lynching parties will become few and far between. Either to prevent lynching or to punish lynchers is not a difficult matter if those in authority are big enough to live up to their obligation.
>
> "Mr. Milton's commission is engaged in drafting an anti-lynching statute that will really serve the purpose of eliminating the evil. That is the right direction for the activity of Southerners to take.
>
> "This is a Southern problem and a State problem. We must avoid at any cost the interference of Congress which has been threatened on several occasions. To make sure that the Federal Government will not thrust itself into State affairs, each commonwealth must make its own showing.
>
> "If but ten lynchings took place in 1929, it is evident that as time goes on we shall have extinguished this plague as a constant factor in our sectional life. That can be done, it will be done, as the forces of expanding civilization make themselves felt in the struggle with ignorance, prejudice, and economic inferiority.
>
> "That is a day to look forward to, the day when the crime of lynch law will have been thrust into the limbo occupied by other expressions of blood-lust and savagery."

Findings of the Southern Commission on Lynching

1. There is real doubt of guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence.

2. Fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white women.

3. Claims that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes are fallacious.

4. Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, altho grand jury indictments seldom are brought.

5. Lynching is most frequent per tens of thousands of Negro population in sparsely settled areas.

6. There is direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status, and lynching danger.

"In this report," agrees the Chattanooga *News* (whose editor heads the commission), "we have, in definite, scientific data, all the necessary facts concerning the malady which has made the South a synonym for barbarity in other countries." And "we need but to study these illuminating disclosures and to apply the remedy."

Altho it praises the report, the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot* fears that the problem will remain, at least as a threat, "so long as the South is unable or unwilling to raise the economic and educational level of its poverty-handicapped and illiterate population elements."

Along the same line, the Dallas *News* asserts that the commission's finding "that there is a direct relationship between lynching danger and a lack of education plus low economic status is borne out by familiar cases."

"If the frequency with which blameless persons are made to suffer a dreadful death does not inspire a crusading spirit for rooting out this abomination, no other argument or fact or appeal will inspire it," declares the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*.

"The report should spur every Southern State to renewed effort to prohibit lynching absolutely," asserts the Winston-Salem *Journal*, and the Houston *Post-Dispatch* adds that "millions of people are looking forward hopefully to the time when the lynching blot will be erased from the South's escutcheon."

The report "is a serious indictment against the people of the South," admits the Savannah *Morning News*, but—

> "The South is not the only area in which lynchings happen.
>
> "If the taking of the law into its own hands by a mob for violent execution of its passionate decision is lynching—without relation to color or section—then innumerable slayings in the gang-cities, Chicago and New York, ought, too, to be set down as 'lynchings'—and those communities might well be included in the indictment.'"

Commission members, as listed by the Associated Press, are:

Chairman, George Fort Milton, president and editor of the Chattanooga *News;* Julian Harris of the Atlanta *Constitution;* Dr. John Hope, President of Atlanta University (for Negroes); Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, President of Georgia State College; Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University; Dr. W. P. King, book editor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Dr. W. J. Glothlin, President of Furman University and of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. R. R. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute (for Negroes), and Dr. Howard W. Odum, University of North Carolina.

ELGIN, ILL.
Courier
NOV 16 193

Lynch Law

One of the most dismaying bits of current news is the report recently issued by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching. After a year's survey, the commission finds that there is a real doubt of the guilt of at least half of the victims of mob violence, and adds that the claim that lynchings are necessary because the courts fail to convict accused negroes is without foundation.

It is extremely salutary that this be brought home to us; yet the horrible truth revealed by the report is something to make the nation hang its head in shame. A real doubt as to the guilt of at least half the victims of lynch law! Could there, by any possibility, be a more completely damning indictment? Is there, conceivably, anything that the apologists for Judge Lynch can say in reply?

HERALD
OLEAN, N. Y.

AUG 1 8 1931

Michigan's Example

In its disposition of the perpetrators of the notorious "torch murders" on Thursday, the State of Michigan again offers a striking example of speedy justice. It is an example that should be followed by other states.

The facts are: Two white youths and a "gigantic" Negro robbed and murdered two young couples who had stopped their car in a country lane. After the murders, the bodies and the car were burned.

Approximately 48 hours after the murderers were arrested, and in a few hours more they had confessed the crime and described it in detail. They were hustled into court at Ann Arbor. After an hour or so of testimony, Judge Sample said he did not wish to hear any more of the hideous, sordid story and ordered the prisoners to prepare for sentence.

He gave each a life sentence in prison at hard labor on four counts—four lifetimes each in prison at hard labor. Such a thing is, of course, impossible. But the Judge explained that he wished to make doubly sure that these men, unfit for and unworthy of any association with society, did not obtain freedom and come back to mix with "human beings."

We shall not discuss the merits of the sentence, but as we say, this is an example for every state in the Union. Yet we may be sure that for years to come New York and Georgia, Alabama and Illinois, Pennsylvania and Missouri, and heaven knows how many other states, will go on dallying with crime as if it were something to play with instead of something to stamp out lest it destroy the very framework of our civilization.

Everybody who read the account of this atrocious crime hoped that its perpetrators would be caught and punished. By so swiftly tracing and arresting these men the Michigan police have done their duty effectively, while the life sentence imposed should serve as a warning to human wolves of the highway.

Editorial of the Day

11-19-31

JUDGE LYNCH'S "MISTAKES."

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.]

Out of Atlanta, in the heart of the south, comes as damning an indictment of lynching as has ever been penned. The southern leaders, mostly editors and educators, who are members of the southern commission on the study of lynching show a courage and vigor in attacking this problem which merits praise from all, north and south, who deplore this blot on the shield of American justice.

Their conclusion that of the 21 persons lynched in 1930. two "were certainly innocent and eleven others possibly so" is no surprise to those who have traced the history of lynch law. Neither is the fact that few lynchers are ever punished. But it is well to have it thus publicly emphasized.

Equally valuable is the commission's scuttling of two time honored "arguments" in defense of lynching. It finds that less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 were accused of assaulting white women and that the claim that the courts do not convict Negroes, and hence lynching is necessary, it brands as fallacious.

Some of the real reasons for the 1930 lynchings are illuminating. Thus one man had offended political opponents. Another got the rope in order to keep him from testifying in a serious charge against white men.

Happily the number of lynchings has shown a steady, but not always consistent, reduction. From an annual figure of upwards of 200 not over 25 years ago they have declined to as low as a score. Each is no less an assault upon justice, but the reduction in the mass of such assaults is cheering.

It is well for northerners to remember that the south has never had a monopoly on this form of lawlessness. This is especially important today when northern industrial centers have a larger colored population than ever before in their history.

DEVILS LAKE, N. D.
JOURNAL

AUG 2 0 1931

Michigan and Lynching

The Daily Telegram of Adrian, Mich., editorially last February has much to say in condemnation of a lynching at Shafer, N. D., when Charles Bannon, slayer of the Havens family, was put to death by a mob which stormed the Shafer jail.

The Telegram said that no such thing could ever happen in Michigan, where lynchings are unknown. The editor of the Telegram did not have the power to peer a bit into the future and realize what a narrow escape Michigan had from a lynching party when mobs attempted to seize from the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti police three men who confessed to having murdered and burned two young couples in an automobile.

It was just Michigan's good luck that a triple lynching was averted at this time, because the crowds were bent on such a thing, the fact that Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor has sufficient police to cope with the situation being the only reason that the would-be lynchers were frustrated.

We dare say that had these three Michigan slayers been in a town the size of Shafer, N. D., with a small police or sheriff's force the lynching would not have been averted, and a blot would have been smeared all over Michigan's fair escutcheon.

It is well enough to condemn a state when mob rule occasionally takes the law in its own hands, but no state, nor its editorial writers, can feel assured that such a condition will not sometime exist within its boundaries.

The better elements in North Dakota regret that those responsible for the lynching have not been brought to justice. Circumtances, apparently, have been such as to make it practically impossible to secure the names of those who committed this crime against law and order. North Dakota does not condone mob rule in any form—and, by the way, it has none of that gangster rule which appears to have been having things its own way in that Michigan city of Detroit.

PEORIA, ILL., JOURNAL
Friday, August 7, 1931

55

COMMUNISM AND LYNCHINGS

Although Haynesville, Alabama, is a long way from Chicago, Illinois, even as the crow flies, it is not too far away for news to travel swiftly and awfully. Near Haynesville, the other night, an infuriated mob lynched a 16-year-old Negro boy accused of an attempt to rape an 11-year-old white girl. The girl was not harmed, having made her escape and run home. But the boy was shot 32 times.

It is not surprising that communism should make an appeal to Chicago Negroes when crimes like the one near Haynesville are reported at too frequent intervals from the south. Considering the problem of the Negro laborer during a depression such as the present one, it is not at all remarkable that communistic agitators could organize them by promise of free rent. Similar promises appealed to the Negroes of the south when made by the Union League clubs in the days immediately after the Civil war.

Chicago's efforts to control communism among its blacks will probably be successful. But the race problem in the United States is far more deserving of intelligent study than the problem presented by these same communist agitators. The communists, however, get all the attention and the lynchings are casually ignored.

BANNER
CAMBRIDGE, MD

DEC 1 2 1931

BUSINESS MEN TO MEET IN SALISBURY

Meeting To Boost The Eastern Shore Of Maryland Was Scheduled To Be Held Today By Business Men Of Salisbury.

Salisbury, Md., Dec. 12. (AP)—A meeting to boost the Eastern Shore and to discuss events following the lynching of a negro here a week ago last night, was scheduled to be held today by business men of this section.

Complaints have come from several sources against the attitude of Baltimore newspapers and the denunciation spoken from pulpits in the city.

Several local merchants and other Eastern Shore business men have since the lynching, transferred their business dealings to wholesale houses in Wilmington and Philadelphia or to Shore firms in a position to handle the orders

Bundles of Baltimore newspapers have been burned upon delivery on the Shore even before the outside wrapper was removed by the consignees. Particularly animosity was reported to have been aroused over an article in one of the afternoon papers of Baltimore a few days after the lynching.

Business men who said they were to attend the meeting today admitted they did not know whether any concerted action would be taken in connection with the matter. The primary purpose of the meeting, they explained, was to find a way to advertise the Eastern Shore and boost its products.

Lynchings 1931

Discussions

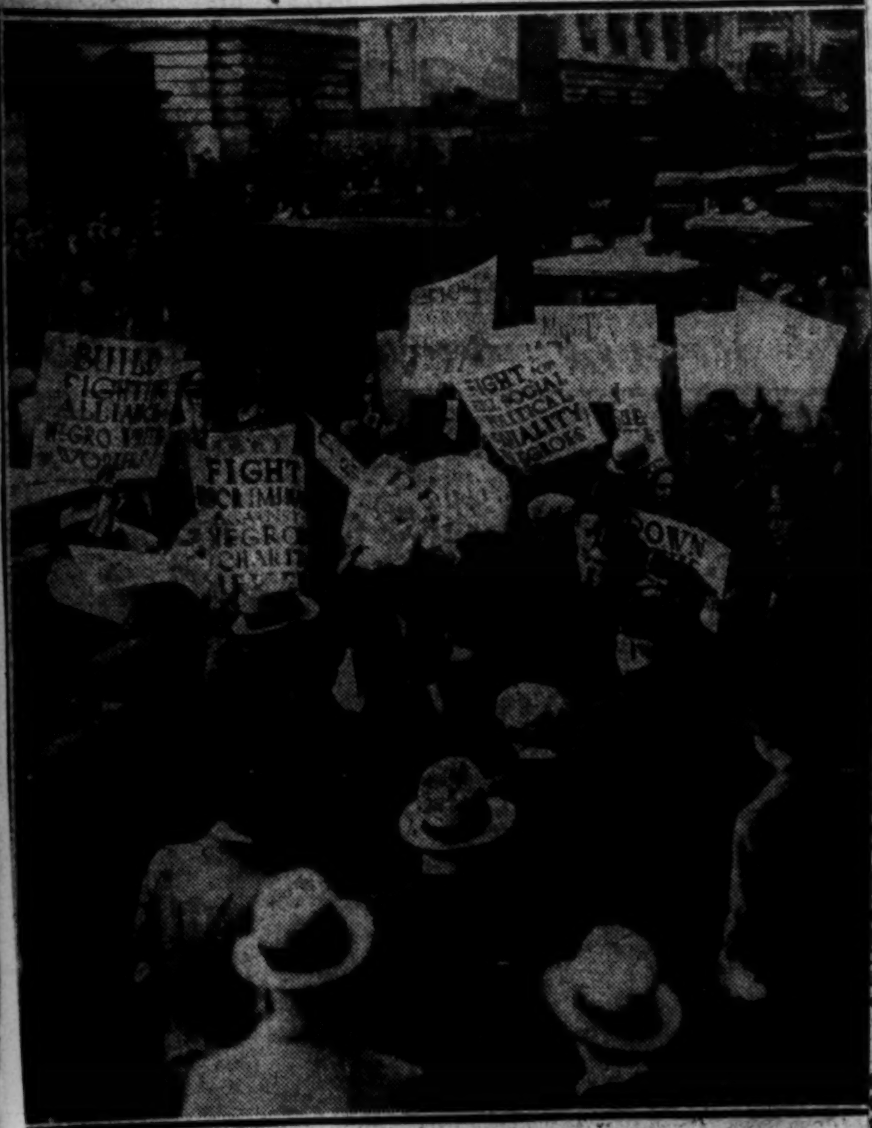
White Press, Northern.

3311

NEW YORK
HERALD-TRIBUNE

DEC 13 1931

Uninvited Guests at Republican Club Luncheon



Herald Tribune photo—Frank

Communists being hustled along by police as they try to make a demonstration in front of the clubhouse in West Fortieth Street, when Governor Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland was a guest inside.

60 Reds March To Club Here as Ritchie Protest

Police Allow Paraders to Pass Building Where Executive Was to Have Spoken

But He Fails to Appear

Sends Regrets; Republicans Hear Pound, Richardson

While Dean Roscoe Pound, of the Harvard Law School, and Seth W. Richardson, Assistant United States Attorney General, addressed the members of the National Republican Club yesterday noon on the subject of forces menacing the Constitution, a straggling band of sixty Communists was allowed by police to demonstrate with banners and speeches outside the clubhouse, 54 West Fortieth Street.

The demonstration was against Governor Albert C. Ritchie, of Maryland, scheduled as a speaker at the luncheon. Placards reading "Down With Ritchie, Who Sanctions Lynchings," "Death to the Lynchers," "Release the Nine Scottsboro [illegible]" and "Down With Lynching, Jim-Crowism and Discrimination" were carried prominently in the parade. Unknown to the paraders, Governor Ritchie had at the last minute wired his regrets to General James G. Harbord, president of the National Republican Club, for his inability to be present on account of "a serious condition which requires my personal presence in my state."

The "serious condition" was generally taken to mean the aftermath of the lynching of a Negro at Salisbury, Md., on December 4, following the killing of a white business man of the community.

Guests Unaware of March

Luncheon guests of the club were totally unaware, until they descended to see the street lined with policemen, that anything out of the ordinary had taken place.

The Reds gathered in a hall at 417 West Fifty-third Street, marched across town to Sixth Avenue, then down Sixth Avenue to the corner of Fortieth Street where police halted them for twenty minutes. They took the opportunity during this respite to hear from some of their leaders, who protested against lynchings, chiefly with reference to the Salisbury affair, and against the sentencing of nine Negroes to death in Scottsboro, Ala., for an attack on two white girls.

Inspector Thomas F. Walsh then decided to let the parade continue past the National Republican Club.

Inside the club the opening meeting of the annual series of non-partisan discussions, fostered by the club since 1909, went peacefully forward. General Harbord expressed confidence that America would weather the present economic storm, read the telegram from Governor Ritchie explaining that he could not come and then introduced Dean Pound.

Cites "Menaces"

There are two menaces today to the adequacy of the Constitution as a guide to our political and social life, Dean Pound said. One comes from a group which resists any change, necessary to a living Constitution in a changing world, and the other from those people who would rush too precipitately into unconsidered changes in times of political upheaval.

Quoting Heraclitus that the essence of life is change, Dean Pound said that "the glory of our Constitution is that it provides for change, and is a document for the far-distant future as well as for the present." Nothing, she said, could endanger it more than to bind it hard and fast to any one place or time.

"A great many things in the past have been taken as threats to the Constitution which, in reality, turned out to be advantages. For instance, it was thought at the time of the Louisiana Purchase that the addition of such a vast territory would unbalance the polity of the states and of the Constitution. Again, in 1907, in the era of Progressivism, a Federal judge pointed out the great danger to the Constitution in the difficulty of its amendment. Yet, within less than two decades, four far-reaching amendments have been added, and, when we reflect on them today, we must think that the process of amendment was none too easy."

Dean Pound was one of those on the Wickersham Commission who stood out for revision of the Eighteenth Amendment and repeal of the Volstead act.

Dean Pound reached the conclusion that the Constitution was amply adequate in its flexibility to meet the changed conditions of sociey in America from the time of its adoption, in the era of local business and individualism, to the present era of economic co-operation and diminishing individualism.

Besides discounting radicalism, the high point of the address of Mr. Richardson was in his pinning the charge of menacing the Constitution upon the present-day average American. "Thou art the man!" recurred frequently and accusingly in his remarks.

"Every movement," he said, "which today threatens the Constitution lies at the door of the conscience of the individual citizen of this country. Every influence that weakens constitutional government comes from a refusal of the individual citizen to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution."

BROOKLYN, N. Y
EAGLE

DEC 13 1931

Gov. Ritchie Misses Protest Gathering

Governor Albert C. Ritchie of aryland, was the target of a monstration in protest against ~~recent lynchings~~ in that State, aged yesterday afternoon in front the National Republican Club, W. 40th St., Manhattan, where Governor Ritchie was scheduled to speak. Unknown to the approximately 100 demonstrators, Governor Ritchie had sent a telegram stating that he would be prevented from fulfilling the speaking engagement and he accordingly missed the demonstration.

New York American

DEC 6 1931

Colored Folk Protest Maryland Lynching

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People yesterday sent a telegram to Governor Ritchie of Maryland protesting at the lynching Friday of a negro at Salisbury, Md.

It urged that "Maryland's reign of mob terror be sternly and promptly suppressed." The lynching was the first in the state since 1911.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
JOURNAL

NOV 14 1931

Mob Floggings in Michigan

Three Pontiac men, suspected of communist leanings, have been taken from their homes by masked vigilantes and flogged. So mob rule, the terror of the south's negroes, comes closer to us. The hysteria which causes such brutality in citizens is almost at our doors. In a very real sense what Michigan proposes to do about the matter is of concern to us here in Wisconsin.

Mob rule is a cowardly thing, a beastly thing, possible only where communities are helpless or unwilling to punish the perpetrators. Will Michigan prove itself to be helpless or unwilling to put a stop to it? Or will Michigan make every effort to bring to justice the ruffians who, doubtless in self-righteous indignation, took matters into their own hands?

Law and order cannot compromise with mobs, whether they be communistic or anti-communistic. Good citizens everywhere understand that, and Michigan, if it too understands, will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to bring its Pontiac floggers to punishment.

Nation

12-23-31

Dec 23 No. 3468

TWO NEGROES LYNCHED in Lewisburg, West Virginia, on December 10 bring the total for the year to thirteen. This is bad enough, although it is vastly better than the total of twenty-five for 1930. This improvement, indeed, is surprising in view of increasingly depressed economic conditions in the South and a corresponding increase in animosity toward the Negro wherever he interferes with white men's jobs. Governor Conley of West Virginia has issued the by now usual statement of horrified indignation at the lynching and a promise, also to be expected, that the lynchers will be speedily apprehended and summarily dealt with—if they can be identified. We do not wish in any way to disparage the Governor's statement or to imply that we are skeptical of his sincere desire to bring about the arrest and conviction of the mob leaders. We merely await results, as we are still awaiting them from Maryland, where a lynching occurred on December 4. Governor Ritchie also issued a statement denouncing the lynchers and calling for their blood; but so far the only blood that has been spilt has been the blood of the lynched.

BALTIMORE, MD
SUN

DEC 6

Guard Against New Racial Outbreak At Scene Of Lynching

By LOUIS J. O'DONNELL
Staff Correspondent of The Sun

Salisbury, Md., Dec. 5—Only two of three of Salisbury's Negro population of 1,500 appeared on the principal streets of the town tonight.

Their scarcity was the result of efforts made during the day with the cooperation of Negro leaders to curtail the customary Saturday night influx of Negroes as a precaution against racial reaction to the lynching of Matthew Williams last night.

Of the citizens here who would volunteer opinions on the case, few voiced any regret of the 35-year-old Negro who killed Daniel J. Elliott his employer, five hours before he was lynched.

Attitude On Trial Changes

There has been a complete reversal, however, in the attitude of many of Salisbury's citizens toward the trial of Yuel Lee, Negro, accused of killing family of four at Taylorsville. Whereas feeling has been strong on the point of holding the trial in an Eastern Shore county, the lynching of Williams has caused people here to believe that the trial would cause a new outbreak of one kind or another.

Deny Racial Prejudice

Responsible persons, who either were at home or in other parts of Wicomico county when the mob of 150 men took the Negro from the colored ward of the Peninsula General Hospital and marched him to the scene of the hanging, asserted there is no race prejudice in this section of the Eastern Shore.

This demonstration, they said, is the direct outcome of a meeting staged here Thursday night by a Baltimore representative of a Communist organization, which they assert was held to create sentiment against the trial of Lee, which was set for Tuesday in Cambridge, thirty-two miles from here.

"Blot On Community"

"This affair, which is a blot on the community, would never have occurred if it had not been for the interference in the Lee case of an agency in Baltimore known as the International Labor Defense League," Levin C. Bailey, State's Attorney, said.

"If that man accused of the murder of four people in Worcester county had gone to trial in the regular manner, this murder here would not have happened, and if it had the persons responsible for what happened last night would have allowed the law to take its regular course."

Mr. Bailey said the cooperation of leaders of the Negro element to prevent possible further disorder was sought early this morning. Not only was word flashed to outlying sections but employers of Negroes in this city were asked to release them from work early, with instructions to remain in their homes tonight.

Mr. Bailey said he had interviewed a number of persons, but was unable to obtain any clue to the identity of the leaders of the group who marched to the hospital last night and, while several of them talked to N. H. Holland chief of police, and Don Parks, a deputy sheriff, took Williams from his bed and hurled him out of a window to the crowd waiting outside.

Knew None Of Mob

Chief Holland said he does not know those who approached him, but asserted he would be able to identify them if he saw them again. The chief of police and the deputy were guarding Williams. The deputy made the same statement to authorities.

A coroner's jury was impaneled by Magistrate S. King White to investigate the case. The jury viewed the body of the Negro, recovered at daybreak today from a wood on the old Mount Hermon road, two and a half miles from Salisbury.

Previously the body had been taken from the scene of the lynching to the Negro quarter of the town and burned. No one could be found today who could explain the second removal.

The jury adjourned after the formality of viewing the body, subject to the call of Sheriff G. Murray Phillips.

Personnel Of Jury

It is made up of:

W. Arthur Kennerly, foreman, former Mayor of Salisbury and head of a laundry company.

S. Frank Holloway, insurance broker.

John M. Richardson, hardware merchant.

John H. Tomlinson, Republican county leader and retired business man.

S. Irvin Johnson, manager of a chain clothing store.

Wade H. Bedsworth, deputy game warden, retired from active business.

Virgil J. Downing, automobile salesman.

Charles C. Hurtt, insurance.

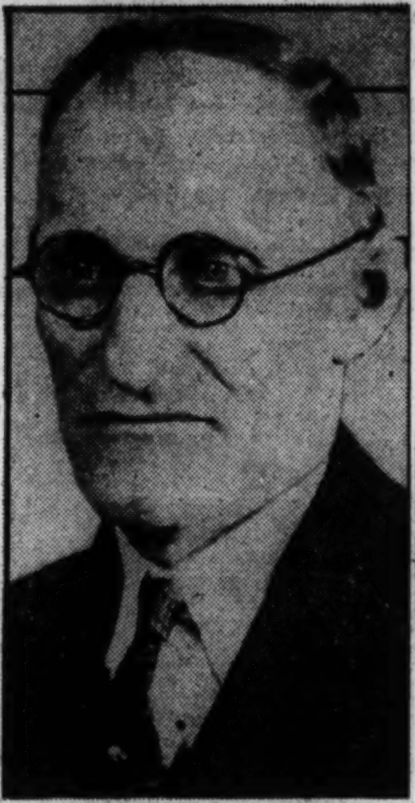
W. Gorman Hastings, printer.

Walter R. Disharoon, lumber dealer

Frank A. Mitchell, auditor of the Eastern Shore Public Service Company.

P. Mark Carey, insurance broker.

Salisbury Can Handle Situation, He Declares



MAYOR WADE H. INSLEY, of Salisbury

Jury Action Doubtful

The State's Attorney declined to state whether a special session of the grand jury would be called to aid in the investigation of the case.

"We will cross that bridge when we come to it," he said.

No special term would be warranted, he said, unless the coroner's jury, which has no set date for considering the case, places the blame for the lynching on definite persons.

Judge Joseph L. Bailey, an uncle of the State's Attorney and member of the First Judicial Circuit, who was at his home here last night when Williams was hanged, left early this morning for Cambridge, where the jurists of this district debated whether they should proceed with the trial of Yuel Lee as scheduled Tuesday.

They decided to forward the case to the Court of Appeals for a decision on the petition of Bernard Ades, Lee's counsel, for removal to Baltimore.

"All Quiet," Mayor Says

Mayor Wade H. Insley, in a formal statement issued this afternoon, stated that a careful investigation of the situation "shows that everything is quiet." There is no racial feeling, he asserted, and "what has happened can be safely classed as an indication directed only toward the individual concerned. There never has been any trouble here and there is not going to be now."

An additional squad of six deputy sheriffs was placed on duty with the regular force of three uniformed police for tonight. This, according to the Mayor, was done "simply as a precautionary measure." He added that "the city feels that it is amply able to handle the situation without outside help."

Sheriff Phillips said he was conducting an nivestigation, which, from its very nature, would have to be done on the quiet.

According to report, plans were being laid to lynch Williams at 10 P. M., but they were interrupted temporarily by an erroneous report by the Salisbury *Times* of the Negro's death at the hospital. He was shot by himself and by James Elliott, son of the dead crate manufacturer, after he had killed the elder Mr. Elliott.

Sponsored In Delmar

Later, the newspaper flashed a bulletin in its office window, reporting the Negro still alive, and from this point, it is said, the march to the hospital started spontaneously. The planned descent on the hospital was sponsored in Delmar, a community on the border of Maryland and Delaware six miles from here, and set for a specific hour.

Delmar, according to Salisbury residents, was one of the centers of Ku Klux Klan activities on the Shore when that organization was at its height. About a year and a half ago a young resident of Delmar was killed near Salisbury by a Negro who was never apprehended.

The lynching mob, however, according to eyewitnesses, was made up of residents of all parts of the lower Eastern Shore, even as far as Chincoteague, in Virginia, fifty miles away.

Today's issue of the Salisbury *Times* devotes eleven paragraphs to the account of the lynching, asserting that "the opinion prevails that many of those participating in the actual hanging came from other sections of the peninsula" and that "their actions were prompted by events which have occurred in their own communities."

According to those who say they have received information from their Negro employes, the Communist meeting on which they place the blame for the lynching was held in the Negro section of the twon and the audience was composed entirely of Negroes.

The reports they said they received fro mtheir Negro friends—and the speakers were some of the highest city and state officials—are to the effect that the organizer from Baltimore asserted that the white employers were oppressing the Negroes on the Eastern Shore, defrauding them of their just wages and directly responsible for their unemployment.

The Negro who was lynched, it was reported, was on the borderline between low-grade intelligence and subnormality. Some persons have told authorities that they saw him pacing up and down in front of Mr. Elliott's factory on Lake street for nearly an hour before he entered and fired at his employer.

Said To Have Quoted Communist

Several hours before he is said to have repeated remarks attributed to the Communist organizer and is reported to have asserted if he ever killed a man he would shoot himself.

Williams had been employed by Mr. Elliott as a laborer in his factory at about $1.50 a day for the last seven or eight years. Mr. Elliott, persons here who knew him said today, has stated that his factory should have been closed because of bad business conditions, but he was keeping it open to "give some of those who have worked for me a long time something to do because it's getting so near Christmas."

Mr. Elliott, physicians said, died almost instantly from the bullet, which was fired at close range by the Negro. James Elliott, who heard the two shots—one fired into Mr. Elliott and the one that Williams then fired at himself—ran into the office from the factory. He picked up the gui that Williams had dropped nad fired at the Negro, but the bullet glanced off his forehead. Williams had shot himself in the chest. Then it was reported that Williams also had died at the hospital.

Crowd Called Orderly

The crowd, all men, which went to the hospital to get the Negro, was very orderly, the police here say. It was so quiet that they knew nothing of the pending action until some one stepped into the fire engine house on the way to the hospital to get a rope. By the time the additional members of the force arrived, the police chief and the deputy had been outmaneuvered and the Negro had been dropped out of the first-floor window of the colored ward to the waiting mob.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions

White Press, Northern.

3312

BALTIMORE, MD.
SUN

DEC 11 1931

NEWSPAPER TELLS OF SHORE BOYCOTT

Salisbury Times Says Economic Pressure Is Directed Against Baltimore

LYNCHING AFTERMATH

Group Takes Action To Force Apology From Editors And Clergymen, Report

[*By the Associated Press*]

Salisbury, Md., Dec. 10—The Salisbury *Times* said today that a campaign of economic pressure has been started by Maryland's Eastern Shore business houses against Baltimore wholesalers because of criticism directed at the lynching last week of Mack Williams, confessed Negro slayer of his white employer.

Within the last forty-eight hours, the paper said, orders from Baltimore retailers and wholesalers, placed by Salisbury businesses have been canceled to the extent of $148,000. The pressure will be continued, it is asserted, until a public apology is made by Baltimore newspapers and clergymen who criticized the lynching.

Movement Widespread, Claim

The movement to boycott Baltimore business houses has not been confined to Salisbury, the paper said, but has spread to other towns throughout the Delmarva peninsula.

A meeting of business men has been called for tomorrow night here to perfect an organized system of boycott, with various towns on the peninsula taking part.

Baltimore business houses have been informed, the paper said, not to send their salesmen to call on regular customers they have served in the past. The customers themselves have taken the action, according to the paper.

One Baltimore newspaper has been taken from the dealers' stands at various towns on the Shore and burned. At Delmar, a little town on the border line between Maryland and Delaware, bundles of papers have been seized from the station platform, where they were thrown from trains, and burned.

A commercial representative of one Baltimore newspaper today applied to the Salisbury Police Department for a guard to be assigned to the railroad station to protect his consignment when it arrived.

SHORE NEWSPAPERS DENOUNCE MENCKEN

Writer Taken To Task Editorially For Article On Lynching

Baltimore

SUNPAPERS ARE SCORED

Sun

No Concerted Action On Proposed Boycott Of Baltimore Business Taken

12/12/31

[*Special Dispatch to The Sun*]

Salisbury, Md., Dec. 11—No concerted action against the business houses of Baltimore will be taken by the Salisbury-Wicomico Chamber of Commerce because of the attitude of the Baltimore press, according to leaders here today. The members feel that it would be a mistake for the chamber to take official cognizance of the article written by Henry L. Mencken, but prefer that they act as individuals in bringing the matter before the Baltimore firms.

"The men who support the paper and the management which employs such a vicious writer must take the consequences," was the sentiment expressed by Louis W. Gunby, Salisbury merchant and president of the school board discussing a boycott against Baltimore business.

Criticism For Lynching Not Resen

"No one resents criticism for the lynching itself," Mr. Gunby continued. 'Even those who participated in it know that there is criticism due. The fact that a newspaper of such standing as *The Evening Sun* would publish the article written by Mr. Mencken condemning all and sundry on the Eastern Shore, and that the business men of Baltimore would not only allow it but have not taken steps to correct the impression it made, is hard to understand. The least the paper could do would be to state that it does not agree with Mr. Mencken," he added.

Dr. George W. Coulbourn, of Princess Anne, former president of the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association and Maryland State Firemen's Association, said: "Plenty of business houses here are discontinuing business with Baltimore, and unless something is forthcoming others will do likewise."

Baltimore salesmen, traveling the Peninsula, are said to have met with little success since the article appeared, one in particular, who calls on the small stores, reached Salisbury last night after a day in which he made his usual calls on the seaboard side of the Peninsula and stated that he had not made a sale during the day, but had met the same criticism at every call—"We do not want anything from Baltimore."

Advocate Economic Pressure

Eastern Shore newspapers, publishing week-end editions, are editorially advocating "economic pressure" upon Baltimore business.

The Federalsburg *Times* says:

"The injustice in the article (H. L. Mencken's) is plainly evident, when he refers to this section as the land of "poverty." But then how was Mr. Mencken to know that the very next day after his article appearel that one town alone in this "poverty-stricken' area was to cancel $76,000 worth of business from Baltimore. Certainly it is plain to all that the gentleman didn't know what he was talking about when he mentioned 'poverty.'

"And, if the rest of the State believes all that was in that article, which insinuated that he rest of Maryland would be better off without the Eastern Shore, then we are ready and willing to sever what broken ties may remain with the Western Shore and Baltimore city, and form a state of our own across the Bay.

"We are certainly not proud of everything Baltimore city has done and we are just a trifle tired of its meddling in our affairs."

"What a splendid state this Delmarva Peninsula would make. A rich country, close to city markets, but far enough away to avoid its contamination, and its political influence. A unified people with common interests, ideals and aspirations. What a great 'free state' we could have—a state with more than one-half million people, with no dominating large cities—fourteen rich, prosperous counties in the best section of the United States."

Records Editorial

The Centreville *Record* reads:

"All we ask of the Baltimore press is to give us proper publicity and not to exploit unduly the crimes on the Eastern Shore any more than they do the banking and financial happenings in Baltimore city, and we will see that justice is meted out properly to those accused of crimes and without mob violence."

The Chestertown *Enterprise* says:

"The Eastern Shore wants nothing more at this time than to be left alone in the settling of its problems. Outside interference which caused the delay in the case of the Worcester murderer of four, was directly responsible for the deplorable lynching in Salisbury.

"Lee, the Worcester murderer, and Davis, the Kent ravager of motherhood, were spirited here and there by the Shore police authorities that justice might be done. And all to what end? The chance for a Baltimore communistic lawyer, interested in the Negro law trade because of his connection with a firm dealing in financial loans to Negroes, to gain columns of personal publicity at the expense of hampered and delayed justice.

"The Baltimore writers certainly do no believe that the Eastern Shore is a place where a group of bloodthirsty savages live in a barbaric state. And it what is the picture they would read at large?"

The Centreville *Observer* concludes an editorial with:

Sunpapers Resented

"Law-abiding, law-respecting citizens of Queen Anne's county resent the Sunpapers vicious and unfair indictment in exactly the same way that they resent to mob spirit that had prevailed in certain Shore sections. Hastily written editorial like that in last Saturday's *Sun* paper which would wreck character and blast reputation, are very closely akin to the thoughtless, inconsiderate, brutal spirit which actuates and guides the hand of the mob in its mission of death or pillage."

The *Marylander* and *Herald* of Princess Anne says:

"The business interests of Baltimore city are the real sufferers from these attacks. They, alone, must stand the brunt of the reaction, for every time the citizens of the Shore are held up to ridicule by *The Sun*, or its writers, just that much more does the distance between the Eastern Shore and Baltimore increase, and the building of sixteen bay bridges will not bring Baltimore any closer to the Shore, if these attacks are to be contiuued.

"We cannot be expected to continue to do business with a section of the State that has used every conceivable word to show its contempt for us and to blacken up to the uninformed outside world, so it can be easily understood why the business interess of Baltimore are forever lamenting the ever-decreasing business of the Eastern Shore. The delivery facilities of this modern age have made the Eastern Shore independent of Baltimore city in a business line, and we can therefore afford to ignore their self-appointed leadership and dictatorship and continue to conduct our affairs in a manner to suit ourselves, and in just so many words tell the Baltimore *Sun*, and Mencken, and Bernard Ades, and defense Communist, Blashevik organization, to 'Go chase themselves.'"

AMERICAN
BALTIMORE, MD.

DEC 6 1931

RABBI ISRAEL URGES ACTION ON LYNCHING

Clergyman Here Calls On Eastern Shore Ministers to 'Remove the Disgrace'

Ill at his home, Rabbi Edward L. Israel yesterday wrote a letter which was read to Har Sinai Congregation challenging Governor Ritchie to summary action against the lynchers of Matthew Williams (colored) at Salisbury at the risk of the executive's political prestige.

At the same time the letter called upon the Eastern Shore ministers to "take active steps to remove the disgrace" unless they were to be frightened into silence and thereby merit the reproaches of anti-religionists that are constantly being hurled against the churches.

TEXT OF LETTER.

The letter read:

"What is going to be the answer of the constituted authorities? Are we going to witness in Maryland the usual conclusion to these barbaric scenes?

"Is a travesty of a coroner's inquest going to gather with fake solemnity and declare that the negro came to his death 'at the hands of persons unknown' while all the while the identity of the mob leaders is a matter of public knowledge?

"Or are we going to have summary action against the lynchers in a manner to vindicate the honor of Maryland as the defender of justice?

COURAGEOUS CHARACTER.

"The Eastern Shore situation neds the demonstration of a strong, courageous character on the part of Annapolis.

"What are we going to find there—real courage or petty politics which prates of State's rights yet will do nothing to uphold the dignity of those rights in the face of possible loss of political prestige?

"What are the ministers in the churches of the Eastern Shore going to do? I ask whether they are going to be frightened into silence or are going to do what real religion commands—not only protest, but take active steps toward removing the disgrace.

"If the church allows itself to be frightened into silence it will merit the reproaches which anti-religionists are constantly hurling against it.

RESTRAINED ATTITUDE.

"I appreciate the feelings of all decent colored folks, who, horrified by the mob violence, maintain a dignified and restrained attitude to the shame of the lewless actions of the mob. The murderer did not represent the decent colored folk any more than the mob represents the true Christians of the Eastern Shore."

The letter was read during part of the Stbbath ceremonies at the Bolton Street Temple.

GREENSBURG, PA
REVIEW

DEC 7 1931

Maryland Disgraced

Maryland slipped back in its good standing among border states with a lynching, Friday night. A negro was taken from a hospital, hanged, and his body burned. The injured negro had killed a lumberman earlier in the day and was the victim of a shooting scrape with others in the camp.

For 20 years the state of Maryland had been free from such outbreaks of mob violence. The last lynching occurred in that state in 1911. During the past 45 years there were 14 lynchings in the state.

No doubt the negro who was guilty of murder would haye been given the full extent of the law in the regular processes of justice if he had not died in the hospital. As matters now stand, Maryland has a bad blot on its record for 1931 and the authorities will have the unpleasant duty of either honestly running down the culprits and bringing them in turn to justice or whitewashing the case.

New York American

DEC 1 3 1931

RITCHIE ABSENT REDS BALKED

Communists who believed Governor Ritchie, of Maryland, would speak at the National Republican Club, 54 W. 40th st., yesterday afternoon, staged a demonstration, but police did not let them get far with it.

Ritchie, however, did not appear as scheduled, telegraphing he was detained in Maryland by state affairs.

The Communists, armed with placards, intended to take Ritchie to task for the recent lynching of two negroes in Maryland. One hundred of them marched from a hall at 417 W. 53rd st., but fifty policemen under Inspector Thomas F. Walsh, met them on the way. They were huddled together at Sixth ave. and 40th st., and not permitted to get near the club.

They compromised by mounting stepladders and boxes and talking to the crowd.

Ritchie's telegram said that "the revolutionary ideas prevalent in some countries abroad and advocated to an extent here are wholly foreign to the genius of the American people." He went on:

"Any and all forms of Government to which the people are subservient or which operate from above through a dictator or through a dictatorial policy will never square with the free spirit of the American people."

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

N.Y. Times

12/10/31

A Study of Lynching.

A careful investigation of lynching has just been completed by a group of Southern newspaper men, clergymen and university presidents and professors. In a calm report they state the shocking facts. Twenty-one persons were lynched in 1930. When it was too late, it was discovered positively that two of them were wholly innocent of the crime of which they were accused. The guilt of eleven was in serious doubt.

Though research in court records has shown that courts do convict Negroes when they commit crimes, the old excuse that they will not is still offered. Mob leaders still go unpunished. They are known well to the community, and their identity could easily be established, but they are seldom brought before a grand jury and almost never indicted.

The Southern gentlemen making up the commission recommend anti-lynching statutes for the prevention of such disgraceful manifestations of violence and injustice. Since the commission found that "lack of education, low economic status and lynching danger" are directly related, the best hope for reform lies in better living conditions and education.

NEW YORK
NEWS

DEC 1 3 1931

RITCHIE MISSES REDS' PROTEST AT G. O. P. CLUB

About 100 Communists staged a demonstration in front of the National Republican Club at 54 W.

Gov. Albert C. Ritchie

40th St. yesterday afternoon, in the belief that Gov. Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland was to be the speaker at the non-partisan luncheon.

Ritchie, however, was unable to attend. The demonstration was the Reds' protest against the recent lynching of a colored man in Maryland.

An emergency squad of fifty patrolmen, ten mounted police and a score of detectives limited the Communists to a brief parade and twenty minutes of oratory. Only a few colored persons were in the parade, which marched along 40th St., from Sixth to Fifth Avenues, and then disbanded.

The Communists carried banners and placards which read: "Down with Lynching, Jim Crowism and Discrimination," and "Equal Rights for Negroes."

An anti-Communist protest meeting will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria, Park Ave., Sunday evening, Jan. 17, it was announced yesterday by the Committee to Cmbat Communism, 655 Fifth Ave. Major Gen. James G. Harbord will preside.

Martin W. Littleton is honorary chairman of the committee on preparations, and the members include representatives of the American Federation of Labor, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Sons of the American Revolution.

NEW BRITAIN, CONN
HERALD

DEC 7 1931

MOB MURDER IN MARYLAND

Lynching of a Negro in Salisbury, Md., was another shocking example of mob violence. Salisbury is no mean place. It is the metropolis of the southern part of the Eastern Shore, a fast growing city of commerce and go-getting, possessing all the concomitants of civilization. It boasts of splendid schools, paved streets, public buildings and churches. For detailed information write its Chamber of Commerce.

The southern part of the Eastern Shore of Maryland is also famous for its religious frame of mind. Nothing stirs on Sunday, except at Ocean City, where godless visitors from other parts demand recreational facilities which are not allowed elsewhere. On one of the adjacent islands in those parts violence was done a citizen some years ago because he failed to attend church.

In this atmosphere there was a lynching. A few weeks ago there were two attempts made at lynching. It is tragically curious how a superabundance of religion doesn't prevent violence against the colored race in some parts of the country.

The lynching in Maryland appears to have had an economic basis. The Negro had killed a prominent lumber merchant because, so the Negro claimed, he had been underpaid for labor. It is significant that a somewhat similar basis underlay the previous Negro outburst in southern Maryland some months ago. Of course, no man, be he white or black, has a right to do murder over a disagreement regarding wages. Human nature may run in that direction occasionally, and when it does it is a case for the courts, not a mob. The most that a mob accomplishes is to advertise its lack of confidence in courts and justice.

We would be the last to judge the good people of southern Maryland wrongly because of such a lawless episode. The mob of 300 unquestionably represented the riff-raff of the region, the thoughtless, irresponsible minority which utilizes the opportunity for excitement. The real attitude of the state toward such lawlessness is indicated by the action of Gov. Ritchie and the widespread condemnation of the mob's action within the commonwealth.

Had the authorities connived with the lynchers they could not have done their part better. While the front door of the hospital was guarded, a side door was left unguarded. Such ineptitude in upholding law and order needs to be investigated.

NEW YORK TIMES

DEC 1 1931

URGES HOOVER TO BACK ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Negro Delegation Tells President 15th Amendment Needs a Law to Force Equal Rights.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—A delegation of Negroes representing the National Equal Rights League called on President Hoover today and urged him to give his active support to anti-lynching legislation by the next Congress. They also lodged a protest against political discrimination against Negroes in the Southern States.

The President was told that the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, designed to give Negroes equal social and political rights, needed an enforcing act similar to the Volstead law, which was passed to make the Eighteenth Amendment effective.

According to William M. Trotter of Boston, who headed the delegation, the President was sympathetic to their pleas, but suggested that the proposals be taken to Congress. The President, he added, was not prepared to commit himself on the proposed anti-lynching law.

The President was also asked to issue an Executive order abolishing the practice of "race segregation" in various government departments.

"The result of this segregation and general discrimination," said Trotter, "is the development of a permanent caste system in the United States. The effect is to make us known as the American untouchables."

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

White Press (Northern.)

3313

NEW LONDON, CONN.
DAY

JUL 10 1931

Lynching and Perjury

WITHIN the last few weeks announcement was made that the lynchings in the United States had decreased during the first six months of this year and this was most gratifying to those who respect law and order and desire that others would do likewise. Now comes the news from Norfolk. Va., about a white woman who accused a negro of having assaulted her. He was found guilty on the strength of her testimony but later investigation showed that she had committed perjury. She has been sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. This is justice.

Another case in public print for some time revolves about the convitcion of eight negro youths who have been sentenced to die for the assault upon two white girls in Alabama. There seems to be strong doubt as to the fairness of the trials and the justice of the verdict. This is no attempt to try the case but it would seem that a further investigation should be made.

Radicals have been agitating in favor of these Alabama negroes and while their intentions are good it is greatly to be feared their cause will not profit by the "ravings" of a class which does not always stand in the true light of law and order. The ramifications of court trials are, many times, a strain on the patience of folks not on the scene, but there is no reason why a man or woman should not have a fair trial. If perjury has been committed or a mistake made it should be rectified immediately and not after the condemned is beyond the reach of clemency. The Virginia case proves this.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

JUL 15 1931

The Case Against Lynching.

OF ALL the arguments put forth against lynching, perhaps the strongest is that the practice inevitably results in the deaths of innocent men. Executing men without trial and frequently without even a superficial examination of the facts could have no other result. Lynching is not confined to the confessed evil-doers nor even to those about whom a web of circumstantial evidence has been woven.

The Baltimore Sun cites the case of a Negro tried and convicted in Virginia of a crime against a white woman. It was one of those cases where hysteria rules the courtroom, the prosecution and the feelings of the people. The man was sentenced to death. Shortly before the hour of execution, his attorney unearthed evidence to prove the complainant perjured herself. The man was set free and the woman sentenced to prison.

Scores of cases involving crimes by Negroes against white women have not been permitted to reach trial by jury. It is impossible, of course, to discover how many of those who have been the victims of mob violence were as innocent as the man in the Virginia case, but it is fairly safe to assume that in all the years mob rule has flourished in the United States many guiltless have gone to horrible deaths.

UNION CITY, N. J.
HUDSON DISPATCH

JUL 15 1931

Too Many Lynchings

During the first half of the present year there were "only" five lynchings in this country. Until this country can make a report of NO LYNCHINGS it must hang its head in shame.

The Trenton Times puts it well when it says:

"Until this thing is stamped out, until the horrible practice of mob murder here exhausts itself, the United States had better quit sending protests to 'uncivilized' countries in other parts of the globe over the killings of American missionaries."

The only kind of lynchings this country could possibly commend would be the lynching of some of the lynchers. However, two wrongs never made a right, and even that kind of a lynch "law" would only add to the disgrace of our form of civilization.

TIMES
NEW PHILADELPHIA, O.

JUL 9 1931

DISCUSS LYNCHING CASE HERE TONIGHT

An open air meeting will be held in the public square at 8 o'clock tonight in behalf of nine young colored boys who are being held at Scottsboro, Ala., for legal lynching for a crime they never committed. A Canton speaker will address the meeting.

TOLEDO, O.
TIMES

JUL 11 1931

OUR LYNCHING RECORD

(New York Evening Post)

The five lynchings which have occurred in the first half of 1931 are fewer than the average for the period, but the brightest spots in the record are those indicating prevention of lynchings by officers of the law. Of these heartening instances of official duty in the face of popular opposition there have been thirty-two, according to the records at Tuskegee, of which four were in Northern or Western states and twenty-eight in Southern states. Force was used to repel the mob in six instances; in the remaining twenty-six the prisoners were removed or the guards increased. A total of fifty-five persons, forty-five Negroes and ten whites, was thus saved from the barbarism of mob vengeance. One of the five persons lynched was white and one of the lynchings took place in a northern state, North Dakota. In the growth of official determination to protect prisoners and see that they are accorded the opportunity for a trial lies the strongest guarantee for the wiping of lynching from our civilization. But this determination is to some extent a reflection of a better public opinion both local and general. Sooner or later the horrible injustice of the slaughter of an innocent man or one whose guilt was at least doubtful, and the savage lawlessness of the execution of a man whose guilt was plain and whose conviction, therefore, inevitable will impress themselves so deeply that would-be lynchers will constitute a negligible fraction of any community.

SOUTH BEND, IND., TRIBUNE
Thursday, July 16, 1931

LYNCHINGS.

The report that five lynchings occurred in the United States in the first six months of 1931 is received with mingled emotions. Five lynchings, of course, were evidence that mob spirit was too easily stirred; and that opinion is strengthened by announcement that in 32 instances 55 persons were saved from mobs by law enforcement officers.

Still, encouragement is found in the figures. The five lynchings were fewer than the six months average over a long period. The 32 successful resistances of mobs reveal increasing determination to stamp out the lynching evil. It is particularly gratifying to note that 28 of the mob defeats occurred in the south where law enforcement officials used to be deporably tolerant of mob action.

NEW YORK
HERALD-TRIBUNE

NOV 12 1931

The Report on Lynching

To the New York Herald Tribune:

A new and hopeful era in race relations in the Southern states is forecast by the report on lynching just issued under the auspices of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation. This searching and outspoken condemnation of mob vengeance issued by a representative group of white and colored Southern university men and editors upholds in full the facts and representations broadcast over a period of twenty-two years by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It demonstrates that men and women of vision, white and colored, North and South, are in essential agreement upon the elements of decency upon which not only better race relations but all orderly government depends.

It is now a matter of public record, on the authority of Southerners themselves, that lynching mobs not only murder the innocent but seek to poison the public mind by attributing to mob victims the crimes against womanhood of which less than one-fourth of the lynched persons are even accused. This report, following upon the repudiation of lynching by white women throughout the South, is the final blow to any justification which lynchers in the past have sought to claim for their anarchic dethronement of orderly processes of law.

WALTER WHITE,
Secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
New York, Nov. 10, 1931.

SEND PROTEST ON LYNCHING

Negroes Appeal to Ritchie to Halt Maryland Mob Violence.

N.Y. [illegible] [illegible]/31

A telegram was sent to Governor Ritchie of Maryland yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, protesting against the lynching at Salisbury, Md., Friday night of a Negro taken from a hospital, and calling for action by the State to cope with mob uprisings.

After reviewing the circumstances of the lynching, the telegram said:

"In the same newspaper carrying an account of this latest lynching in your State is a dispatch quoting a speech of yours in which you appeal for full faith in American institutions and in the American idea of democracy. We appeal to you not only as Governor of Maryland, but as a leading exponent of the American system, to practice what you preach."

Baptist
Chicago. Ill.
MAY 9 1931

The North Dakota Lynching

Some weeks ago in discussing editorially the lynchings in Missouri and North Dakota we raised the question what the citizens of these states respectively thought about it. There comes to us from Dr. Fred E. Stockton, general superintendent of the North Dakota state convention, a memorial addressed to the citizens and governor of the state of North Dakota which indicates clearly what one fraction of the citizenry think about it. It is prepared by the North Dakota Council of Church Superintendents, which represents the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Congregational denominations, and reads as follows: "To the Governor and Citizens of North Dakota: The recent lynching of Charles Bannon at Schaffer, North Dakota, impells us to declare our deep humiliation and express our emphatic disapproval of such disregard for the due processes of law. We view with abhorrence the crimes to which the lynched man confessed. We also deeply deplore the conduct of all of those persons who had any part in this misguided attempt to mete out justice. The crimes confessed by, and the lynching of the Bannon boy clearly indicates that . . . it is high time to call our citizenship to a consideration of the eternal and inestimable worth of each human life, and the prime importance of our adherence and submission to the law of the land. . . . It is incumbent upon all good citizens of the state and all Christians of every creed and order to strengthen our efforts for a wholesome observance of all laws and to make sure that the regular processes of law may not be impeded by technicalities and discriminations. We commend Governor George F. Shafer in his emphatic stand against such lawlessness and in his efforts to bring the lawbreakers to justice, and it is incumbent upon all honorable, liberty loving citizens to sustain him in this undertaking."

LOWELL, MASS.
SUN
AUG 15

THE MICHIGAN TORCH MURDERS

It is not surprising that the people of Michigan who are law-abiding citizens, threatened to lynch the three slayers in the so-called torch murders of four young people, two boys and two girls, near Ypsilanti in that state.

Capital punishment is not allowed in Michigan, and if it were, it is safe to say these fiends would be quickly executed. In order to avert lynching, the authorities, after securing an open confession by the perpetrators of the horrible crime, quickly brought them to trial and had them sentenced to life imprisonment within six hours after arrest. Undoubtedly this was done to save them from being lynched by the enraged crowd that followed the prisoners to the court house.

In passing sentence upon the murderers, Judge Sample said:

> "We all know that the law doesn't make the penalty severe enough in this case. But if the law, as it is, is administered promptly and properly, that is all that we can ask. We are here to administer the law as it is, and all good citizens will abide by it. How human beings could act as you three have acted goes beyond me. I can't imagine it. The testimony made me heartsick—that our highways and our places of pleasure should have to be infested by such worms.
>
> "Society has no place for them. It never can. If they should live 1000 years they would not be fit to come back. I put them all on an equal basis. There might be something to say for Frank Oliver — but he associated himself with these men. Sometimes I feel discouraged. This young Smith has been before me for years and prominent citizens of Ypsilanti have tried to do something for him, to show him what was right and wrong. Supervisors and other good citizens have tried to lead him aright and I can't help believing that if it wasn't for him this crime would not have been committed.
>
> "The others should not be misled by that statement. They are old enough to know better. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything further, and I proceed to the sentence."

We reproduce this statement as showing the necessity of capital punishment in extreme cases, and the warning these burning words convey to young people against joining criminals in the commission of crime. It remains to be seen whether the swift conviction of these three fiendish murderers will deter others from committing murder and whether it will cause petting parties to keep better hours.

ALLIANCE, O.
REVIEW
AUG 18 1931

THE DEATH PENALTY

Last March the Michigan General Assembly refused to restore the death penalty for first degree murder and the suggestion was made that such a question should be left to a vote of the people.

If the people of Michigan were to vote on a proposal today it would probably carry for Michigan has been the scene of four murders, so revolting that two white youths and a Negro narrowly escaped lynching. Each of the trio was sentenced to serve for life on four murder charges and the sentences will not run concurrently.

"The court wants to make doubly sure," said the judge, "that they are never again to menace society."

The two whites and the Negro decided to rob a gambling establishment. "We got together and went over there and it didn't look good to us," the Negro's confession said. "So we said we would go down lover's lane and knock off some of these here petters. They always is easy."

They found a car containing two boys and two girls, robbed them of a few things, attacked one of the girls and then decided on murder when they learned they had been recognized. With a pistol, wrenches and stones they did the deed, and then set fire to the automobile and the bodies.

There is nothing to be said for the three who have gone to prison for life. They are, as the judge said, nothing less than fiends.

If the death penalty ever was deserved they deserve it. But these four lives might have been saved and crimes of a similar nature might be avoided elsewhere throughout the country if there was more of a disposition on the part of the officers of the law to enforce strictly the laws, and bring to justice criminals wherever they may be found.

The trio responsible for the terrible crime which they committed, were known to the officers of the law as desperate criminals, and in the deed laid to their door, they have proven that they were fiends of the very worst type.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
EAGLE
AUG 31 193

Double Mob Murder in Florida.

Apparently if a Negro resents a blow from a white man with a return blow in Florida, his life is forfeit to the mob murderers. A double lynching near Blountsville gives the alleged crime of the father and son who were lynched as "attacking Frazier Williams, a forest ranger." The Associated Press explains:

> Authorities said they have learned that Williams struck a Negro during the argument at a turpentine camp, and another Negro took up the fight, beating the white man severely. Williams was taken to a hospital at Panama City and is recovering.

Clearly Williams struck the first blow and "got what was coming to him," as the saying goes. Of course the Negroes were arrested, not Williams. They were held for the assault. But because they were good industrious colored men their employer gave bail for them and they were on their way home when a mob of masked men shot them down.

Who were the murderers? "Sheriff R. J. Flanders is 'investigating.' The Coroner reported he was unable to identify any of them.".

It is just as well for apologists for lynching to drop the absurd camouflage of "unprintable crimes." The world knows perfectly well that Negro-lynching is a sport of the lower class of young whites in various areas of Dixie. Incidentally over-indulgence in that sport is in large measure responsible for the vast exodus of colored people to the North.

It is not exclusively responsible. Denial in the courts of civil rights, nonprotection against white swindlers, with judges and juries all Caucasian, and utterly inadequate schools for colored children have aided in producing this continuing phenomenon. The time is coming probably when only social justice will retain for the South its invaluable labor supply. The actual hanging of a few lynchers would be a good beginning.

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

White Press, (Northern).

3314

LYNCHING PROBLEM SOLVED IN GEORGIA

N.Y. Times

At Least, the State So Regards the Balking of Crime at Elberton This Week.

5-24-31

MINISTER'S TALK HELD MOB

New York,

His Plea for Observance of Law Delayed Crime Until Militia Got Into Action.

N.Y.

By JULIAN HARRIS.

Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATLANTA, May 21.—It is good to be able to chronicle the fact that Georgia solved the lynching problem this week. Heretofore, this space has too often been used to describe the murder of prisoners, usually Negroes, by a mob of lawless Georgians. It would seem to be news that the custom of offering the keys of the jail to the leaders of a mob is about to be outmoded. In short, lynching, as a by-product of hot Nordic blood, is about to go the way of hat-doffing in elevators or surrendering one's seat in a street car to a woman.

It ought to be said, too, that Georgia's heretofore "Pinaforeish" militia not only took along loaded guns when called out to protect a Negro prisoner in Elberton, but used them effectively when the mob attempted the usual plan of ignoring the representatives of law and order. Two men were wounded, the mob lost its appetite for gang-murder, several gasoline drums, which might have aided in a human sacrifice, were saved and the prisoners were moved safely as well as speedily to the jail in Atlanta. In short, the situation was one which caused George Fort Milton, chairman of the Committee on the Study of Lynching in the South, to write an enthusiastic editorial of commendation captioned "Three Cheers for Georgia."

Minister Held Mob.

Vigorous approval has been accorded the excellent work of Sheriff Seymour of Elbert County, the city police of Elberton, leading citizens, and particularly the Rev. Henry Brookshire, of whom more later. The Atlanta Constitution, recent winner of the Pulitzer Gold Medal and for years a determined opponent of lynch law, praised the authorities and the National Guard for their courage. Denouncing lynching as "savagery, barbarism, reversion to the wild fury of the jungle," The Constitution asserted that "every time the State's ministers of law and order repulse and defeat a mob the State rises higher in the scale of civilization and draws more of the respect and praise of civilized men."

In the Elberton incident it was charged that a Negro assaulted a young white woman. Four suspects were arrested, but before the usual avenging mob developed a leader, Sheriff S. G. Seymour and Officer Johnson of Elberton headed for Athens in an automobile, taking the quartet of Negroes. When the mob realized that it was about to lose a Roman holiday its representatives started in hot pursuit of the officers and their prisoners. One bullet fired by the pursuers went through the officers' car but no one was wounded, and the outdistanced ambassadors of assassination returned to Elberton.

Later in the day two other Negroes were captured near Elberton. One confessed to taking part in the abduction of the girl, but charged the other with having actually committed the crime. Members of the mob who had attempted to lynch four innocent Negroes entered the jail to get the two men captured later. It was then that the Rev. Mr. Brookshire, Baptist minister, made an appeal to his fellow Georgians to abandon their cowardly and lawless plan. Fortunately units of the National Guard arrived before the members of the mob came out of the hypnosis produced by the pastor's fine and fearless plea, for when the mob, no longer under the spell of the minister's eloquence, attempted to rush the jail two of its members were shot down and the discovery had been made that lynchings can be averted if the law is upheld.

Walla Walla, Wash.
BULLETIN

JUN 2 - 1931

A LYNCHING AVERTED

Georgia has discovered that its "lynch law" can be controlled.

[redacted] speaker, in this case a [redacted] minister, combined with effective resistance of the military dissuaded a group of mob minded Georgians recently when it attempted the usual stunt of rushing the officers and substituting gang for legal justice.

Two negroes held for assaulting a young white woman were held at Elberton, Ga., and members of a mob entered the jail to get the two men. The minister made an appeal to his fellow Georgians to abandon their cowardly and lawless plan. Fortunately, says the New York Times in describing the incident, units of the national guard arrived before the members of the mob came out of the hypnosis produced by the pastor's fine and fearless plea, for when the mob, no longer under the spell of the minister's eloquence, attempted to rush the jail two of its members were shot down and the discovery had been made that lynching can be averted if the law is upheld.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUN 1 6 1931

FEDERAL BAR SPLIT ON BANNING NEGROES

Local Branch Defies National Attorneys' Demand to Drop Four From Membership.

MEDALIE LEADS PROTEST

Ultimatum Based on Association's Constitution Also Seeks to Collect Dues Here.

The Federal Bar Association of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, a branch of the National Federal Bar Association, defied, at its annual meeting yesterday, an ultimatum from the national organization in Washington that the New York group eliminate its four Negro members.

At the Lawyers Club, 115 Broadway, the members adopted a resolution acceptiong the report of a special committee which stated that in its opinion public policy did not permit the local organization to subscribe to such limited membership qualifications as are embodied in the national association's constitution.

The article on membership in the national constitution, it was explained, said that all "white" persons of good moral character were eligible for membership. The association draws its members exclusively from attorneys associated with the various branches of the Federal Government, although they may retain their membership after their governmental connection ceases.

Reply to Ultimatum

The ultimatum, delivered two months ago said that members of the local branch must be passed upon by the national body, and that the dues of members hereafter must be paid directly to Washington if the local group wished to continue as a part of the national organization.

George Z. Medalie, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, who was elected a member earlier in the meeting, framed the motion as adopted by the group. With the opposition of three of the twenty-four members present, the association accepted the committee's report as read by Peter Abeles, Special United States Attorney for the customs division of the Department of Justice.

It directed that the national organization be notified that the local group would be pleased to continue as a branch if it could retain its Negro members and collect its own dues, of which it would send part to the national organization. On receipt of a reply from the national body the general membership of the New York association would be notified, it was explained, and further action would be taken.

In presenting his resolution Mr. Medalie said: "If my assistant, Hubert T. Delany, cannot be a member of this association, I don't want to be a member. It seems to me that they (the national body) can have us if they dispense with their constitutional provision. Otherwise we will have to go it alone." Mr. Delany, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, is one of the Negro members.

Negro Members Absent.

None [redacted] was present. Mr. Delany said later that, while in times past he would have considered such an act on the part of the association courageous, he thought that now such a thing was a natural attitude.

He said that the other Negro members of the association were Oliver Randolph, an Assistant United States Attorney for the New Jersey District; Francis X. Giles, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and Richard L. Baltimore, a former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

The opposition voiced by a few of the members seemed to be based on the objection that the general membership had not been notified directly that the matter was to be brought up. No opinions favoring the exclusion of the Negro members were voiced.

Henry Ward Beer, president, said that, while the local group was a part of the national organization, it had been understood definitely at the time the New York body was formed that it would be permitted to select its own members and that the membership provision of the national association's constitution would not be enforced with respect to it.

The provision for dues was that the members pay $2 a year, he said, of which $1 was to be retained by the local body and the other sent to the national organization.

"Everything seemed agreeable," he continued, "but recently there has been a great amount of heat displayed." As a result of the dispute, the local group had held up the dues, which otherwise would have been sent to the national organization, he said.

Besides Mr. Beer, who was re-elected, the following officers were elected:

First Vice President—Samuel C. Coleman, Assistant United States Attorney, in charge of the Civil Division for the Southern District of New York.
Second Vice President—Reuben Wilson, attorney in charge of the United States Customs Division for New York.
Treasurer—Leonard Greenstone, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.
Financial Secretary—Joseph C. Klein, an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission.
Secretary—Alfred C. McKenzie, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

Tribune
DES MOINES
IOWA

JUN 1 2 1931

HONORS WELL DESERVED.

The two Texas sheriffs who have been awarded medals for courage and judgment in saving Negroes from lynching mobs deserve such honors as [redacted] heroes of war. These decorations, presented by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, should be taken note of by other law enforcement officers in the south, some of whom have been notoriously slack in preserving prisoners from lynching mobs.

Too often the sheriff is conveniently absent on other business when a bloodthirsty mob takes a prisoner from a jail, or he is quickly "overpowered" by the mob leaders. In other words, he dares not cross the anti-social sentiment of the mob for fear that he will not be re-elected to office.

Such sheriffs need to realize that their duty is to enforce the law, not to connive at its flouting. And if the awarding of medals to sheriffs courageous enough to oppose lynching mobs can gain acceptance for this conception of duty, such recognition will serve a good purpose.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
VINDICATOR

JUN 1 1931

Lynching in the South

The sheriff at Elberton, Ga., was not slow to act the other day to prevent a mob from breaking into jail and taking two Negroes out for lynching. When he received word that a mob was forming he made a demand for troops which were sent in haste. The mob was met by gas bombs which failed to send the would-be lynchers away, and the guardsmen opened fire after giving warning. Two of the mob were sent to hospitals and the others quit cold.

There is one Georgia sheriff who has done his duty where others failed in the state where last year a third of all the lynchings in the South occurred. He was not powerless, as so many officials have pleaded after mobs had done their work. If the example he has set is followed throughout the state Georgia should soon get into a class with North Carolina which has had but one lynching in ten years, because a governor showed that lynching could be prevented [illegible] of official force and the nerve [illegible] face mobs.

TRANSCRIPT

York, Me.

MAY 29 1931

Maine's Only Lynching

A short time ago one of America's leading magazines published a table showing the number of lynchings which had occurred in this country during a period of years in the several states. In this table it appeared that Maine was charged with having had a lynching in 1926.

The fact is that Maine is one of the three states which have no record of a lynching since 1886. New Jersey and Connecticut were the other two states with such an excellent record. The state of Maine has had no lynching since 1873 and its first and only lynching occurred in that year near Presque Isle, in Aroostook County. On that occasion James Cullen, slayer of Deputy Sheriff Granville A. Hayden and a man named Hubbard was strung up by the roadside.

Cullen was charged with the larceny of a small amount of goods in a store. He was arrested by a deputy sheriff in a camp near Mapleton. During the night Cullen killed the deputy sheriff and a man named Hubard with an axe and set fire to the camp, partially burning the bodies of his victims. A man named Swanson and a boy named Bird witnessed the murder but were spared by Cullen on their promise not to disclose the crime.

Cullen was captured by a posse of man and taken to the store in the village where he was kept for some time. His captors then started with him for Presque Isle. Outside the village the vehicle in which they were riding was stopped by a gang of men with masked faces. They took Cullen to the roadside and strung him up to a tree. The lynchers then made their escape and their identity was never disclosed.

This was the only lynching that ever occurred in Maine. That was 58 years ago. There has never been an approach to a lynching anywhere in the state. The record of this state in this respect is about the cleanest in the nation.—Portland Press Herald.

NEW YORK EVE POST

JUL 2 1931

OUR LYNCHING RECORD

The five lynchings which have occurred in the first half of 1931 are fewer than the average for the period, but the brightest spots in the record are those indicating prevention of lynchings by officers of the law. Of these heartening instances of official duty in the face of popular opposition there have been thirty-two, according to the records at Tuskegee, of which four were in Northern or Western States and twenty-eight in Southern States. Force was used to repel the mob in six instances; in the remaining twenty-six the prisoners were removed or the guards increased. A total of fifty-five persons, forty-five Negroes and ten whites, was thus saved from the barbarism of mob vengeance. One of the five persons lynched was white and one of the lynchings took place in a Northern State, North Dakota. In the growth of official determination to protect prisoners and see that they are accorded the opportunity for a trial lies the strongest guarantee for the wiping of lynching from our civilization. But this determination is to some extent a reflection of a better public opinion, both local and general. Sooner or later the horrible injustice of the slaughter of an innocent man or one whose guilt was at least doubtful and the savage lawlessness of the execution of a man whose guilt was plain and whose conviction, therefore, inevitable will impress themselves so deeply that would-be lynchers will constitute a negligible fraction of any community.

PASSAIC, N. J.
NEWS

JUL 7 1931

Lynching

Editor Daily News:—The lynching decrease record in the "Forum". To whom the credit goes? To the civilization, and Frank would not be lynched today. Or to the fearfulness, because, they are affright to commit crimes.

HENRY KLUGHAUPT.

Passaic, July 2.

NEWS
SPRINGFIELD, MO.

JUN 23 1931

THE LATEST STUNT IN FREE PUBLICITY

That North Dallas, Texas, preacher who at first claimed that four men had chained him to an electric fan in his church, leaving him there to die, but who latter confessed to his congregation that he tied himself to the fan, certainly hit upon a novel means of gaining a lot of free first-page publicity.

Had he stuck to his first story and blamed it on negroes, the chances are there would have been more lynchings to add to the already frightful list of lunchings in the United States this year.

The surprising feature of the affair is that his congregation completely exonerated him. Riding him out of town on a rail would have been a more fitting denouncement.

CHRONICLE

Owatonna, Minn.

JUN 26 1931

Back to Lynch Law and Vigilantes.

Up in Faribault Monday a trio of robbers walked into a store and, demanding all the funds of the cash drawer, ruthlessly shot the daughter of the proprietress when, confused and unnerved by the suddenness of the holdup, she was slow in complying. They fled after the shooting without accomplishing their end, the accumulation of unearned wealth. —But their wounding of the young woman needlessly and without giving her a chance aroused a group of Faribault men and embittered them to a degree that dogged determination resulted and two of the trio were captured before ire at the deed had cooled.

From the determination of the Faribault men to capture the criminals in revenge for the shooting to lynch law is but a step. The people of Minnesota and the United States need be victimized but little more and but few more helpless victims need be shot down in cold blood to turn the nation back to lynch law and the vigilantes. While the criminal class has been growing and its depredations gained more freedom, the exasperation and determination of decent people has also been gathering itself. The Journal-Chronicle believes that it will be but little longer before we see that determination to demand and secure respect for law and the persons and property of others exert itself in mass action.

When that time comes, it is improbable that a people, justly stirred to wrath by human vermin, will go further, perhaps, than the particular crime they undertake to punish justifies. Summary death might be the punishment demanded—and a rope and the nearest tree might be the mechanical agencies pressed into service when such an occasion arises.

Certainly a long-suffering law-abiding public could hardly be blamed if it should suddenly explode upon an orgy of cruel punishment upon the persons of those who have given little concern to the rights of others and the sacredness of others' property. A little lynch law might, in the end, be the best for the country, for it might strike fear into the evil minds of those who care little for the lives of peaceful folk or their rights to retain the property they have amassed by honest means. —And it might save useful lives while taking worthless ones in thinning the ranks of the killers.

JOURNAL

Webster City, Ia.

JUN 26 1931

LYNCHING

There is less lynching in the south than there used to be, but there is still far too much of it. In fact, the lynching of one person is too much. In discussing this matter the Iowa Falls Citizen says:

> If you were to pick up the morning paper and read a harrowing account of the natives of central Africa burning a white man at the stake, what would you think? If you saw a picture of the lurid flames wreathing about and roasting the white man, if you could see on every side the dark and tangled jungle, if you could see a great crowd beating tom-toms and casting speers and arrows into the writhing body of the condemned man, what would you think? If you can envision and feel, then you will understand what the people of the world think of the United States when they read of Negroes in this country being burned at the stake or on top of some building. No wonder they sometimes wonder whether we are in the savage or barbarian stage.

Some of the victims of lynching get only what they deserve, but that doesn't wipe the stain of outlawry from Uncle Sam's escutcheon. Law abiding people cannot tolerate mob violence. The mob is a thing devoid of reason and sense, being ruled by passion and hatred, and many innocent people become its victims.

In 1928 there were 10 lynchings. The offenses charged was rape 3, writing insulting notes 2, murder 1, wounding man in altercation 1, wounding officers of the law 2, charge not reported 1.

Many people think a majority of lynchings are due to rape, but such are not the facts. Moreover, none of these charges was proven. Think of lynching a man charged with writing an insulting note. Isn't that the limit?

The news of lynchings is published all over the world and certainly gives the United States a bad name.

Lynchings - 1931

Discussions.

White Press, (Southern)

3315

3315

Methodist Women Pledged To Fight Against Lynching

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga

7-11-31

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., July 10.—(AP)—Forty women from five states attending the leadership school of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on Mount Sequoyah, near here, have signed a petition pledging themselves to seek to arouse public opinion in their communities against lynching.

"We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for protection of white women," says the petition. "We hold that we owe it not only to our own times but to posterity to repudiate acts of mobs and lynchers and declare that if our constitution, our laws, our courts cannot protect women, then our civilization is a travesty and our religion a mockery."

The women pledged to arouse public opinion "to the menace of the crime of lynching," by educating the youth of their communities and calling upon the press, churches, schools and other citizens.

Macon, Ga. Te[illegible]

Sunday [illegible] 1931

LYNCHING RECORD SHOWING DECLINE

Southern Women's Organizations Issue Statements

BOTH APPEAR GRATIFIED

ATLANTA, July 4 (AP). — Two Southern women's associations for the prevention of lynching today issued statements of gratification at the South's record for the first six months of 1931.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, from the headquarters of which both statements came, said "the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of Southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight" against lynching.

Only five lunchings occurred throughout the United States during the first half of 1931, the association pointed out, as compared with 30 for the same period of 1922, in a similar period of depression."

The statement added that Southern newspapers have played a leading part in the campaign against lynching and have supported various officials and officers and citizens "who by united action have prevented mob execution against 49 persons within the Southern states alone."

The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching issued the second statement.

The Georgia association, the statement read, "is justly proud that the record of lynching for the first half of 1931 carries no mark against their state. Prompt action on the part of the governor, local officials and courageous individual citizens has brought about this gratifying situation, thus providing the protection of the law for eight persons."

"We confidently believe," the statement added, that the time is not far distant when public opinion will look upon every attempted mob action as a crime from which there shall be no immunity."

The names of women from Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia were signed to the Southern statement. Fourteen Georgia women signed the other.

Savannah, Ga. News

Sunday, July 5, 1931

SOUTHERN WOMEN OPPOSE LYNCHING

ISSUE A STATEMENT

Gratified at South's Six-Month Record

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The statement added that Southern newspapers have played a leading part in the campaign against lynching and have supported various officials and officers and citizens "who by united action have prevented mob execution against forty-nine persons within the Southern states alone."

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Atlanta, Ga. Journal

Sunday, July [illegible] 1931

LYNCH REDUCTION DURING FIRST HALF WINS HIGH PRAISE

Women's Associations to Keep Up Fight Against Mob Executions

By the Associated Press

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WINSTON SALEM, N. C.
JOURNAL

JUL 6 1931

Lynchings Decrease

Lynchings are a gruesome subject to discuss in terms of records. There ought to be no lynchings. But even if allowance is to be made for extreme indignation evoked by crimes of unusual cruelty and viciousness, one lynching would surely be enough in a year. Already this year there have been five lynchings. Such a number is deplorable. Yet high as it is, it is four less than the number nine for the first six months in 1930.

And compared with the number in each of the last ten years, it is less than for the first half of each of those years with the exception of the first six months of 1929, when the number was four and the same period in 1928 and 1924, when the number was five. For the same period in 1927 the number of lynchings was eleven; in 1926 and 1925, the number was nine; in 1923, fifteen; in 1922, thirty; in 1921, thirty-six.

During the first half of the present year, there were thirty-two instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these four were in Northern and Western states and twenty-eight in Southern States. In twenty-six of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented. In the six other instances force was used. Thus a total of fifty-five persons, ten whites and forty-five negroes were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

This insuperable determination of officers of the law to prevent lynchings is the best sort of evidence that lynchings can be avoided in practically every case.

Of the persons lynched one was white and four were negroes. The offenses charged were three attempts at rape and two murders. Two lynchings occurred in Mississippi, one in Missouri, one in North Dakota and one in Tennessee.

A comparison of the lynchings for the first half of each of the past ten years shows beyond doubt that the trend is downward. That there should have been only five during the past six months, a time marked by a severe business slump and unemployment, is cause for congratulation. It should inspire citizens and officers of the law alike to greater efforts to prevent mob violence during the remainder of the year.

Savannah, Ga. News

Sunday, July 5, 1931

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FORT WORTH, TEX.
MORNING STAR-TELEGRAM

JUL 3 1931

Texas on Record.

TEXAS has made open avowal of disapproval of lynch law. In 1930 a mob stormed the Grayson County courthouse in Sherman and burned it in the attempt to lynch a negro charged with rape and murder.

Subsequently a grand jury of Grayson County indicted 14 persons for participation in the rioting. The cases were transferred to Austin on a change of venue, it being declared that the defendants could not hope for a fair and impartial trial in Grayson County.

The first of the trials was held Wednesday and the defendant was given a sentence of two years in prison. Previously the same defendant was given a similar sentence on a charge of arson within the same series of events.

It is most noteworthy. Texas is definitely on record against lynching and auxiliary rioting. In few—if any—similar instances to the discredit of Texas as a law-abiding State have there been either indictment of specific persons or conviction for participation. In this, the most spectacular of such outbursts, the announcement of a conviction will indubitably receive the approbation of the country at large.

Texas does not want to be longer included in the steadily diminishing list of "lynch law States." There never has been any merit in that process of retribution as employed in lieu of the administration of justice. A community inflamed by the urge for taking the law into its own hands becomes a machine of crass revenge and lets down the bars for the entrance of the irresponsible and bad elements. That latter most obviously was the cause in Sherman. No portion of the entire State of Texas can deplore the tragedy to a greater degree than the larger portion of the estimable citizenship of Sherman and Grayson County.

Now that a definite start has been made, the best thing that can happen to the State of Texas is for the citizenships of the 254 counties to adopt the Grayson plan of stamping out the practice of lynching. It has no place in a commonwealth with the characteristics of Texas.

CONCORD, N. C.
TRIBUNE

JUL 7 1931

LYNCHINGS DECREASE.

Winston-Salem Journal.

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STAR
Hope, Ark.

JUL 3 1931

An Excellent Record

PREJUDICED critics who pass hasty judgment on the South's attitude toward its negro population will have a hard time explaining the figures just released by the Tuskegee institute as to the number of lynchings in the first six months of 1931.

There were only five. In the same period ten years ago there were thirty-six, and the 1931 record is far under the average for the ten-year period.

Even more signicifant is the report on the number of cases in which the quick and courageous intervention of officers of the law prevented what otherwise would have been a lynching. Thirty-two times during the first six months of this year have officers stepped in and halted mob violence. Out of thirty-seven possible lynchings, the law failed but five times.

Only three of the five lynchings occurred in the South. And of the thirty-two interventions by officers, twenty-eight were in the South.

Certainly these figures prove the South's high regard for its negro citizens, and the determination of its white officers to see that due process of law is followed both for whites and blacks.

Critics may point out that while the rest of the country had almost as many lynchings as the South, the great majority of attempted actions occurred in our section, and only the courageous action of officers prevented a great toll.

This is true, but the statement means no more than the self-evident fact that trouble occurs where trouble brews. With so large a percentage of America's negro population, the white South has a parallel race problem unfamiliar to the North, except in its great cities, where the performance of the law is much like our own.

In cold figures, the lynch record of the South the first half of this year reveals fewer fatalities than a single mine war in one county of a Northern state. The North will contend that where union and open shop mine workers gather there is bound to be trouble. That is the very point we are making—and the appreciation of each other's circumstances will help to erase whatever misunderstanding and prejudice exists in the tradition of different sections of the United States.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions

3316

White Press, (Southern.)

MEMPHIS, TENN., COM.-APPEAL
Sunday, August 31, 1930

Lynchings Are Crimes That Are Preventable

55

They May Be Prevented By The Diligence of Officers And By The Courage of Officers And By The Pay Penalty.

BY JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

Two states, each with a distinguished reputation for respect for law, stand shamed before the world because a few citizens in each perpetrated a lynching. In the case of North Carolina, the crime against the civilized processes of law broke a clean record of nine years.

Indiana is a northern state with a Republican governor. North Carolina is a southern state with a Democratic governor. There is neither politics nor sectionalism involved. The spirit of the mob knows neither politics, nor geography. We are beginning to understand, also, that it is not primarily a manifestation of racial animosity.

Yet, we cannot condemn North Carolina as a state or its people as a whole, just as we cannot condemn Illinois as a state or its splendid people. The governor in each case did his duty with an offer of rewards and a pledge of diligence on the part of officers to run down and prosecute the lynchers. That duty, of course, will not be successfully performed until the lynchers are brought into the courthouse. If and when every resource of authority fails to achieve this end, we may very well inquire into the reason. Surely, there will be one.

A hundred men, we will say, break into a jail, take a prisoner from it, lynch him, and disappear. The police, the sheriffs, the prosecuting attorneys confess failure. Shall we say what experience of scientific detection has shown to be false and proclaim to the world that the particular community conceals not one, but 100 men capable of perpetrating the perfect crime? There's no need to be deceived. It wasn't a perfect crime. There are doubtless a hundred clues for investigators to follow. If they did not follow them, reasonably we ought to know why. The failure is certainly prima facie evidence of either incompetence or wilful neglect of a plain duty.

When an armed posse, reinforced as such posses generally are by irresponsible volunteers, come upon a fugitive who has committed an incensing crime, and then and there, in the heat of passion and [illegible]itement of the chase kill him, it is none the less a lynching and utterly without justification, but it may be understood.

A lynching that comes with assault upon a jail, or assault upon officers of the law who have the prisoner in safe custody, is nothing less than a cool and deliberate crime with all the essentials of murder in the first degree. This is the sort of crime that is doubly inexhaustable because it is preventable. It is preventable in precisely the way that other lynchings have been averted in North Carolina and in the past nine years to give the state a perfect score of no lynchings. But North Carolina has had no monopoly on the policy. Officers of other states have doubtless practiced it with equal success.

The sort of lynching that involves the forcible removal of the prisoner from jail simply means that there is enough unenlightenment in the community to permit the will to lynch, and that officialdom offers neither substantial obstacle against laying hold of the negro nor personal risk to the lynchers.

If custodians of prisoners take the precaution which common discretion directs at a time of great community indignation and either remove or adequately guard the prisoner, there would be no lynching. If the prisoner is guarded by deputies with enough courage and determination to guarantee that at least one lyncher would sacrifice his own life in the attempt to take another's, there would be no lynching.

North Carolina's first lynching in nine years came as a result of official negligence. Whether it was due to common failure to perform a duty or to over confidence of a courageous sheriff the result was the same. It is obvious that the state had been signally free of lynching not because in 1921 the people achieved a new respect for the majesty of the law, but because North Carolina officials from governors to sheriffs, spurred by the example and determination of Cameron Morrison, who was then governor, realized that lynchings were still possible and contributed their best efforts to prevent another.

What is true of North Carolina is true of other states. Enlightened public opinion nowhere condones lynching. There is no need for the interference with the orderly functions of law enforcement by any federal inquisition or prosecution.

What is the remedy? Ultimately that will cover every state from the highest to the lowest. Immediately, the measures of prevention that have proven supremely effective in the past wherever they have been tried.

1. The requirement under strict penalties that custodians of prisoners, whether police or sheriffs, guarantee protection to the prisoner in their custody by lodging them in absolutely safe jails, either in the community of jurisdiction or elsewhere; and the immediate use of troops when this is impossible and the situation is beyond the control of local authorities.

2. That full power of the state be invoked in running down, convicting and sentencing to jail those who participate in mob violence.

If the first of these measures is followed, there will be little need of the second.

We cannot depend upon the best citizenship of the state to prevent lynchings. The best citizens do not lynch. We can require, though, that in the execution of the law, in the exercise of authority vested in them, officials represent the best citizenship rather than the lowest. And more. We must require that the full strength and all the legal resources of the state be brought to bear upon any and all manifestations of mob spirit.

The will to lynch cannot live in an atmosphere of certainty that the lynchers must pay for it in prison stripes. But in North Carolina we've learned it's easier, just as it is always more desirable to prevent a lynching than it is to convict a lyncher.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., NEWS
Friday, July 10, 1931

Methodist ~~Women to Arouse~~ Pubic Against Lynchings

55

Fayetteville, Ark., July 1[illegible].—(A. P.)—Forty women from five states attending the leadership school of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, on Mount Sequoyah, near here, have signed a petition pledging themselves to seek to arouse public opinion in their communities against lynching.

"We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for protection of white women," says the petition. "We hold that we owe it not only to our own times, but to posterity to repudiate acts of mobs and lynchers and declare that if our constitution, our laws, our courts cannot protect women then our civilization is a travesty and our religion a mockery."

The women pledge to arouse public opinion "to the menace of the crime of lynching" by educating the youth of their communities, and calling upon the press, churches, schools and other citizens.

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.
DEMOCRATE

JUL 10 1931

WOMEN OPPOSE LYNCHING, MOBS

40 Sign Pledge On Mount To Create Opinion Against Violence

A petition pledging signers to arouse public opinion "on the menace of the crime of lynching" has been signed by 40 women from five states and 30 cities now on Mount Sequoyah, attending the Western Methodist Assembly, it was revealed here today.

The petition was presented by Mrs. B. W. Lipscomb of Nashville, Tenn., in charge of a mission school now being held on the Mount.

States represented were Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas.

This petition read:

"We, the women of the Leadership school of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, being held at Mt. Sequoyah, June 28-July 11, believe that the crime of lynching undermines all ideals of government and religion which we hold sacred and which we try by our lives and our conduct to implant in the minds of our youth. We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for the protection of white women. We hold that we owe it not only to our own times, but to posterity to repudiate the acts of mobs and lynchers and to declare that if the constitution, our law, our courts, can not protect women, then our civilization is a travesty and our religion is a mockery. We pledge ourselves to arouse public opinion to the menace of the crime of lynching by educating the youth of our own communities to an understanding of the consequences of such lawless acts, by calling upon the press, churches, schools, and every patriotic citizen to join us in a campaign against such violations of law and civilization and the teachings of religion.

Signers include:

Mrs. Ca[illegible] W. Martin, Mrs. H. R. Farmer, of Springfield, Mo., Mrs. John W. Spivey, Mrs. J. H. Hutchenson, Waco, Texas; Mrs. J. N. Goodwin, McAllen, Texas; Mrs. J. A. Parks, Welch, Okla.; Mrs. J. W. Mills, Mrs. S. D. Bennett, Beaumont, Texas; Mrs. Neal D. Cannon, Timpson, Texas; Mrs. J. Elbert Reese, Nocogdoches, Texas; Jennie Lou Milton, Estelle Haskins, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. J. M. Hughey, Marianna;

Nellie P. Denton, Mrs. R. G. Cox, Fort Smith; Ella Bowden, Mrs. Fred C. Neal, Mrs. M. A. Clark, Fort Worth, Texas; Mrs. J. C. Green, Mrs. J. R. McAllister, Mrs. C. B. Nelson, of Little Rock; Mrs. Ira A. Brumley, North Little Rock; Mrs. C. W. McKeehen, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Marvin Shilling Ardmore, Okla.; Mrs. C. J. Thurber, Iowa Park, Texas; Mrs. H. E. Kelso, Dyersburg, Tenn.; Mrs Sam A. Thomas, Ada, Okla., Mrs Iola Mitchell, Eastland, Texas;

Mrs. C. A. Easton, Tulsa; Miss Anne Parker, Hillsboro, Texas; Mrs. R. E. Cowen, Port Arthur, Texas; Mrs. A. R. McKinney, Texarkana; Mrs. A. B. Waldrep, Heavener, Okla.; Mrs. John W. Bell, Greenwood, Ark.; Mrs. O. J. Hurick, Neosho, Mo.: Mrs. Hal Cherry, Brownswood, Tex., and Mrs. W. F. Woodard, Pine Bluff, Ark.

CITIZEN
Searcy, Ark.

JUL 10 1931

Lynching Condemned By Women's Meeting

Leadership School Members Sign Petition.

Fayetteville, July 10.—(AP)—Forty women from five states, attending the leadership school of the Methodist church on Mount Sequoyah, have signed a petition pledging themselves to arouse public opinion in their communities against lynching.

The petition says "We recognize that lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption it is for protection of white women."

NEWS

Camden, Ark.

JUL 13 1931

PUTTING THE BAN ON LYNCHING

Forty representative women from five Southern states attending the Leadership School of the Southern Methodist church at Mt. Sequoyah, near Fayetteville, Arkansas, last week, went on record as opposing lynching, and signed a petition pledging themselves to seek to arouse public opinion in their respective territories against this form of punishment for certain crimes committed. If we mistake not, this is the second pronouncement against lynching by Southern women within the past few months.

Lynching as a punishment for crime is not confined to any particular kind of crime, nor is it confined to any particular race or color, but results, mostly, from the atrociousness of any crime committed anywhere that appeals to the mob spirit. It is true, and regretably so, that in the South we have had more lynchings than anywhere else, due to conditions that do not prevail elsewhere, but these conditions, we are glad to say, are improving, and along with the improvement is a lessening of the mob spirit and a larger and broader public sentiment to let the courts of the country function, unhampered, in meting out justice to all violators of the law. This move, coming as it does from the women of the South, for whose protection lynching is oftentimes resorted to to avenge a crime committed against them, is rather significant, and may, altogether, elevate public opinion to a degree where unlawful and summary punishment for crime will become almost obsolete.

Taking cognizance of the reasons why lynching is prevalent in the South, and especially for the committing of certain crimes, the Methodist women said: "We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for the protection of white women. We hold that we owe it, not only to our own times, but to posterity to repudiate the acts of mobs and lynchers, and declare that if our constitution, our laws, and our courts cannot protect women, then our civilation is a travesty and our religion a mockery." They stated a truth both in giving the reasons why lynching is resorted to, and our shortcomings in our stanlard of civilization and religion. We are deficient in both.

But we are growing away from the lynching spirit and are beginning to lean more and more upon our courts and the constituted authorities to correct the evils of crime. The basic and underlying principle of it all, however, is to build a civilization that will not resort to the commission of crimes that will unleash the fury of the mob spirit, whether it be for the protection of women or anything else, that will call for hasty and illegal action in avenging a wrong committed.

DENISON, TEX.
HERALD

JUL 14 1931

WOMEN WAR ON JUDGE LYNCH.

A number of leading women, representing the different sections of the South, and meeting in session at the Western Assembly of the Southern Methodist Church, in Arkansas, recently passed a resolution pledging their efforts toward wiping out lynchings through progressive education of youth. Several prominent Texas woman signed the resolution. It read in part:

"We, the women of the leadership school of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, believe the crime of lynching undermines all ideals of government and religion which we hold sacred and which we try by our lives and our conduct to implant in the minds of our youth. We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts assumption that it is for protection of white women. We hold that we owe it not only to our own times but to posterity to repudiate acts of mobs and lynchers and declare that if our Constitution, our law, our courts can not protect women, then our civilization is a travesty and our religion a mockery.

"We pledge ourselves to arouse public opinion to the menace of the crime of lynching by educating youth of our own communities to an understanding of the consequences of such lawless acts. By calling on the press, churches, school and every patriotic citizen to join us."

These Southern women seem to have struck upon the only way to eliminate lynchings. Frank Tannebaum, a New York writer, spent several months in the South investigating lynchings and their cause. He concluded that lynch law was only a crude manifestation of the old-time Southern chivalry which demanded that womanhood be protected by any and all means. He called attention to the fact that eight out of every ten who were lynched were put to death because of sexual crimes. It is as inherent in a Southern white man to protect his women as it is for him to breathe. Nowhere else in the world, perhaps, is pure womanhood so respected as in the South. Yet lynchings are not confined to the South. Americans everywhere protect womanhood and will do so at all hazards.

Merely denouncing lynchers will not stop lynching. Neither will the passing of laws against them. To cure mob law we must remove the cause. The only way to do that is to educate the masses so that reason will have precedence over emotion in times of stress. And the people must be made to believe that the courts will give justice. Speedy convictions and speedy execution of sentences will convince them. Nothing else will.

Our lynching record is a blot on the good name of the South. If these women help to remove it, they will be doing their section a splendid service.

WINSTON SALEM, N. C.
JOURNAL

JUL 14 1931

Women Commend the Press

"The newspapers of the South, with very few exceptions, have had a leading part in this result."

We are quoting the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. The result they are talking about is the surprisingly small number of lynchings in this country during the past six months. Only five people were lynched during that period, as against an average of about ten times that many for like periods throughout the last half century. As late as 1922, in fact, the number of victims for the first six months of the year was thirty. That was six times as many as in the present year.

The newspapers, the women declare, "have not confined their activities to the condemnation of lynchings in the abstract, but they have been tireless in support of governors, officers of the law and courageous citizens who, by united action, have prevented mob execution alone. Every effort against lynching has received wholehearted co-operation in the editorial columns of the Southern press."

Concerning other forces that worked to bring about this encouraging record in stamping out mob violence in the United States, the women's organization has this to say:

"Churches, through their ministers and particularly through their women's organizations, have helped to arouse public opinion against lynching. The sentiment against this crime can receive no greater impetus than support of organized religion.

"Thousands of Southern white women have responded to the appeals of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and have committed themselves to unflinching opposition to mob rule."

DEMOCRAT

Russellville, Ark.

JUL 10 1931

Women Attempt to Stop Lynching

Forty Women Sign Methodist Petition in Effort to Stamp Out Lynching.

Fayetteville, Ark., Juyl 10.—(AP)—Forty women from five states attending a leadership school of the Methodist church on Mount Sequoyah have signed a petition pledging themselves to arouse public opinion in their comunities against lynching.

The petition says "we recognize lynching be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption it is for the protection of white women."

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions.

3317

White Press, (Southern.)

SAVANNAH, GA.
PRESS
MAY 19 1931

THE MOB DEFIED.

The determined action of the troops with the local authorities at Elberton, staved off the efforts of the mob last night to lynch negroes charged with the usual crime.

This always excites indignation in the neighborhood, and this time aroused a crowd which made a demonstration more serious as the night went on. National guardsmen with machine guns, rifles, and tear bombs kept the mob at bay until the men were removed to Atlanta and incarcerated in Fulton Tower.

And this was not done before the troops had fired and wounded one of two men. This they did, it seems, after the explicit orders of Adjutant General Parker who commanded Colonel O'Keefe to shoot any further offenders. The event proves that it is not necessary to create a massacre in the crowd. It is only sufficient to wound one or two men, and then the spirit of the mob is broken. When the lynchers find out that the military is determined to carry out the law, the purpose of the lynchers is frustrated. This has been shown in Savannah and elsewhere. At least a tragic story in Elberton has been averted by the orders of the Adjutant General to shoot if further demonstration was made.

The mob wrested the nozzles from the hands of the fire department and drenched the jail. Some of them were said to have carried sticks of dynamite, but as murderous as was their intent, and as heinous as may have been the crime committed, it was better to defend the prisoners and save Georgia another blot in the lynching record.

One of the criminals is said to have confessed the crime and to have been partially identified by the victim. If this be true, there will be no doubt about their conviction, but it will be a conviction under the forms of the law, and not a murder from an unruly mob. A jury of frenzied people is not the tribunal to weigh evidence and to pass on identity.

Without any sympathies for the men arraigned, The Evening Press must express satisfaction that the law has triumphed.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS
MAY 20 1931

Three Cheers for Georgia

Press dispatches Tuesday tell of the frustration of a threatened lynching in a little Georgia town named Elberton. So different is this story than were several others last year, in which efforts to prevent outrages upon law itself were listless and quite futile, that we cannot refrain from noting with extreme approval the new Georgia attitude.

For several years past, Georgia has allowed her escutcheon to be darkened by hideous mob actions against negroes accused of crime. At Cartersville, Thomasville, Darien, Ailey, and Ocilla, the record was quite damning as to the fair name of our neighbor state. But not so Monday night at Elberton.

Several negroes were accused of a particularly brutal assault upon a white girl. They were apprehended, and put in the jail at Elberton. Signs were noted of the gathering of a mob. National guardsmen from Atlanta, Elberton, and Monroe hastened to the scene.

National guard had been on hand at earlier lynchings. On one conspicuous instance, they loafed about while the mob broke in the jail and murdered the suspect in his cell. But not so at Elberton.

The mob gathered, some 5,000 men in number—and, perhaps, with women in the crowd, for in many of last year's lynchings, women have been on hand, urging their men folks to heinous deeds of violence. The 200 guardsmen confronted the mob at Elberton. At first, they tried to hold them back with smoke bombs and tear grenades. They attached a hose to fire hydrants and turned it on the crowd.

The tear bombs failed, the smoke blew away, the mob wrested the hose from the guardsmen's hands. All was ready for the overwhelming of law and order, the submerging of the guardsmen in one great rush, and the lynching of the culprits in the jail.

But these guardsmen at Elberton knew their duty, and knew full well that upon them rested the maintenance of the peace and dignity of their state. They turned their machine guns upon the rushing maniacs. The mob was stopped by a rain of bullets, aimed low, so as to wound, but not to kill; the negroes were removed from the jail at Elberton, and placed in safekeeping in Atlanta. Here was one Georgia mob which did not have its way.

All honors to those 200 soldiers, who kept their heads and foiled the endeavors of the mob. If these negroes are guilty of the crime charged against them, their lives will be quickly forfeited by operation of the law. But they will have their day in court, as is their due and right. Georgia, at Elberton, has maintained its self-respect. Three cheers, we say, for this new spirit of law and order and civilization in Georgia.

THE ELBERTON VICTORY.

Constitution
[illegible]
Atlanta Ga.

The promptness and success with which the county and city officers at Elberton thwarted a lynching mob on Monday entitles them to the highest praise. The suspected and arrested [illegible] were removed from the local danger and are securely held for the due operation of the law.

The crime that was committed in a brutal assault was exasperating, naturally, but in the absence of clear proof that any one of the arrested suspects is the guilty one, the rage of the mob to inflict a savage death upon one or more of them was a lawless fury to be defeated by the full power of the state.

The judge, mayor, sheriff and police chief at Elberton and the units of the state national guard showed their fidelity and courage in the most commendable ways. The governor responded to the appeals for assistance with an immediate proclamation of martial law and the adjutant general rushed upon the scene enough of national guard units to uphold the law. remove the prisoners to safety and quell the menaces of the mob.

There was neither need nor justification for the mob demonstration. The suspects were in the hands of the law. The action of the court could be quickly invoked to convict and punish the ascertained criminal. The assembling of the mob and its purpose was an insult to the law, an impeachment of the regular authorities, and a public proclamation that the citizens of Elbert county are not loyal enough to law and order to punish crime in constitutional ways.

Too much honor cannot be accorded to all of those Elbert county and state officials, including the national guard rank and file, who effectually defeated the mob and saved the state from the disgrace of another unwarranted lynching.

Georgia is a civilized state that has generally preserved its high repute for "wisdom, justice and moderation"—virtues that find their highest exemplification in yielding obedience to law.

Lynching is savagery, barbarism, reversion to the wild fury of the jungle and its blood lusts. Justice is never served, but always shudders when opposed and overrun by men crazed by the mob spirit. Every time our stated ministers of law and justice repulse and defeat a mob the state rises higher in the scale of civilization and draws more of the respect and praise of civilized men.

The Constitution voices the sentiment of the state when it says to all who co-operated to avert the Elberton mob-murder or murders—"Well done, good and faithful servants!"

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
Friday, May 22, 1931

LYNCHING CONDEMNED FOR DEFEATING JUSTICE

Lynching is condemned for defeating justice by Thomas Union, clothing store manager, who says:

"I think that the sheriff at Elberton is to be praised for the way he prevented a lynching at Elberton, by calling on the National Guard to handle the mob. I believe in capital punishment when it is the result of the law taking its course, and when justice is given, but I do not believe in lynching as a means of capital punishment. When a crowd gets a Negro and lynches him for a crime he has been suspected of, that is not justice. It is a bad way to handle such a thing, because it prevents a trial where a good deal of evidence might have been brought out to get at the truth, and to put punishment where it is deserved. Often a mob will lynch an innocent person, because there was no trial to prove his innocence.

"The Wilson case several years ago shows just how important it is for the law to take its course in such cases. The man Wilson was killed by a Negro one night when he was out riding with a young woman, and a mob went right out after the Negro to lynch him. It happened that the sheriff got to the Negro first, and locked him up away from the crowd. It later turned out in the trial that another white man had hired the Negro to do the killing which would never have been found out if that he had been punished for his crime by lynching at the hands of the mob. The Negro was electrocuted, and the white man got life for his part in it. Lynching should have been done away with long ago when the electric chair was adopted for capital punishment."

Letters To The Editor

Commercial Appeal
5-7-31
Memphis Tenn.

THE UNION CITY LYNCHING.

To The Commercial Appeal:

I have read your editorial in today's Appeal relating to the hanging of the negro in the courthouse yard in this little city. Saturday afternoon. I notice you class the men who hanged this negro as "animals." The fact of the matter is there wasn't a man in the party to the hanging who isn't as good a citizen as any community can have.

There was not a particle of doubt as to the guilt of this negro. If there had been any doubt he would not have been so hanged.

I do not know if the writer of your editorial has a wife or daughter. But I doubt not that you do have some loved girl or lady for whom you feel a deep interest. Put yourself in the place of this girl's father and think how you would feel. If this same offense had been committed against one dear to you, I'll wager you would be just as anxious and eager to see the guilty party punished—and would be out trying to get friends enough together to help you punish the guilty man.

JOHN J. ROBERTS.
Union City, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
BANNER
MAY 5 - 1931

LYNCHING HAS PLACE IN JUDGE'S CHARGE

Union City, Tenn., May 5—(Special)—The May term of Obion County Circuit Court got under way Monday with a civil case started in the afternoon.

The grand jury and regular jury were picked Monday morning and after noon Attorney-General John Drane started work with the grand jury. Judge R. A. Elkins gave his regular charge to the grand jury, giving a special charge relative to the recent lynching here of a Negro.

Asheville, N. C., Advocate
Friday, May 22, 1931

TO THE HONOR OF GEORGIA

By frustrating the purposes of a mob bent upon lynching two negroes at Elberton, Monday night, the State of Georgia has added to its honor.

There was nothing weak-kneed in the manner with which the assault of the potential lynchers upon the jail was met by National Guard troops. A dead line was established and when the mob pressed forward they were checked by a volley of hot shot. With two men wounded the rabble speedily dispersed and did not repeat its tactics.

The Elberton situation demonstrates that there need be no wholesale spilling of blood to thwart a mob. Courage and determination have almost invariably won the day and preserved the orderly processes of justice.

A few more examples like Elberton and there will be no more neck-tie parties.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
JOURNAL
MAY 21 1931

A Crime Prevented.

A crime prevented is never as sensationa as a crime achieved.

A criminal rescued from a mob never makes the spectacular figure for big headlines that the victim of a lynching does.

And so it comes about that the South's justly deserved reputation for the most ghastly of crimes stands for the most part stark and unrelieved, whereas in reality there are heroic tales, far more frequent than the world knows, of steadfast defense of prisoners demanded by wild mobs, and of criminals protected, rescued, and delivered for fair and legal trial to the impartial law of the land.

Now and then it is a woman who defends the jail and saves the prisoner from violence, as happened in Tennessee a few weeks ago. But there is never the matter made of any of this that is accorded an actual lynching.

Now and then an avenue of approach to the public is closed as in the case of a northern weekly journal which had much to say of an outbreak against Negro labor in a little Southern town some years ago, but refused any further testimony when an eye witness to the violence of the mob wrote and sent a footnote as it were to the original record, in which he told of a young superintendent of one of the institutions attacked who gave his life in defense of his colored cook, in tragic proof of the ideal of well-born Southern people when it comes to their responsibility for the Negro.

The latest of these stories comes now from Georgia, in which state, on Tuesday of this week, six Negroes were rescued from mobs that stormed the jail at Elberton and safely gotten away to Atlanta, even after the leaders of the mob had penetrated the State Guard unit's lines and were in the jail corridors hammering on the prisoners' doors.

The story is one of a number that have been noted and commented upon, but never with the noise and fury that comes with the news of a lynching that is carried to its unspeakable end.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS
MAY 20 1931

Justice Triumphs.

It is both a heartening and disheartening drama that recently was enacted at Elberton, Georgia, when a mob variously estimated at from 2,000 to 5,000 persons was repulsed in an attempt to storm the jail in which were confined two negroes arrested as suspects in a case of criminal assault. For a day and a night the officials of the law, supported by national guardsmen, had resisted the efforts of the mob to gain entrance into the prison and apply the summary mob treatment which is no part of orderly justice and may just as easily be the exact opposite. Machine gunfire, tear grenades, smoke bombs and fire hose were used by city and county officers and the guardsmen in combatting the blood-lusting mob which twice penetrated to the cell doors of the two negroes and threatened even to dynamite the jail.

Two white men were injured in the attack, one of them seriously. That is unfortunate, yet it is nothing but the hazard of flagrant lawlessness. The attack had to be resisted and the revolt against our legal institutions had to be put down. The heartening part of the affair is the bravery and the determination manifested by the defenders of the jail, who foiled the efforts of the mob and lodged their prisoners in Atlanta that they may receive whatever justice their guilt or innocence deserves. The disheartening phase lies in the fact that such extremes of defensive measures were made unavoidable by the brute instincts, the lower passions, of men who call themselves civilized.

Chester,
Monday, May 11, 1931

DANGER OF MOB LAW.

The mayor of Pinewood, in Sumter county, was shot to death as he sat in his living room reading a newspaper. The assassin fled, but a trail led to the threshold of two negroes—father and son. The negroes were arrested and spirited to the penitentiary for safe keeping. Later evidence established the innocence of the negroes and they were released.

But what would have happened if excitement had been running high and those negroes had fallen into the hands of a mob? The lives of two innocent men would have been sacrificed to the spirit of mob law.

Mobs are not moved by the impulse of reason. If they were they would not be mobs. The mob is an unorganized collection of individuals, without leadership, and acts on the impulse of the moment. Its sole motive is to take life, and the question of the guilt or innocence of the victim is submerged for the time being by the desires and passions of the mob members.

Men who hold to the benefit that mob law is a cure for social evils will find a sermon in the Sumter incident. —The Dillon Herald.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER
MAY 1 - 1931

THE BLOOD HOUND SCORES.

Immediately following the recent lynching of a negro in Union City, Tenn., for an attempt to attack a white girl, The Observer made editorial comment on the circumstance, as indicated in available press dispatches at the time, that the only apparent evidence of the identity of the victim of the mob was the evidence furnished by blood hounds. Rev. J. G. Garth, editor of The Presbyterian Standard, long absent from his "old home town," but still zealous for its good name, has brought to us a copy of The Union City Commercial, weekly paper, published a few days after the lynching, and which gives more complete information of the circumstances. According to the Union City paper, the negro was positively identified by his intended victim. Also, the blood hounds not only traced him from the scene of the attempted attack to his home, but also trailed him from another residence where an earlier attempt to break in had been made. The dogs followed two separate trails from different points, and in each case pointed to the same negro as the guilty man. The lynching was a deplorable affair, but in the light of more complete information it seems that no mistake was made in the identity of the mob's victim. Mr. Garth, while deploring the affair, would give his home town credit for getting the right man.

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST DISPATCH
JUN 9 - 1931

Arson and Lynching

WHEN a Travis county jury convicted one of the Sherman riot defendants on an arson charge, it was asserted that the first conviction in connection with the lynching of a negro had been obtained in Texas.

This arson conviction and its two-year term may represent a change in attitude toward mobs which take the law into their own hands, but it is not a particularly hopeful sign.

The young defendant was convicted of arson and all testimony that the firing of the Sherman court house was for the purpose of cremating a negro prisoner was barred by the court. It was intimated also that the arson term would be allowed to run concurrently with other prison sentences imposed on the defendant previously in chicken theft cases.

In reality, the convicted participant in the Sherman riot will serve his theft term and the arson term at the same time and step from the penitentiary a free man, without serving additional time for the arson case.

The history of these cases also throws some light on the prevalent public attitude toward lynching. Instead of indicting the alleged rioters for murdering the negro who died in the fire, they were billed for arson, apparently on the theory that convictions would be more easily obtained.

The cases were transferred to Dallas county where it was impossible to obtain a jury, mos of the talesmen declaring that they would not convict a white man for lynching a negro charged with attacking a white woman, even if his guilt was proved conclusively.

Such an attitude on the part of the people provides little hope for the eradication of that dark blot of lynching from the escutcheon of some Southern States.

Lynchings-1931
6

Discussions.

White Press, (Southern)

3318

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

JUN 6 - 1931

HAS TEXAS BEGUN LEGALLY TO COMBAT LYNCHING?

Two years in State's prison seems a light enough sentence to impose upon conviction of complicity in burning down a courthouse. However, the Travis County jury that found J. B. McCasland guilty of arson, in connection with the Sherman riots last year, doubtless considered certain extenuating circumstances. The defendant is but 19 years old and, allegedly, his part in the crime was carrying the gasoline used in starting the fire. Furthermore, all the related circumstances—including that of the lynching — were excluded from the evidence.

Still, the fact remains that a Texas jury has brought in a conviction in a case growing out of mob violence against a negro charged with having attacked a white woman. Such legal action is so rare as to attract country-wide attention.

Because public sentiment largely condoned the crime, the Sherman men accused could not be tried at home. The cases were transferred to Dallas County, but it was impossible to obtain a jury there. One venireman after another — by implication, at least—expressed sympathy with the accused. Then, in the State's behalf, Judge Pippen transferred the cases to Travis County.

Citizens there are to be commended for having taken a clearer view of the crime. The Sherman atrocities had shamed Texas before the Nation and the world. Every one of the numerous lynchings which the State has suffered and tolerated in recent years, produced a like effect, of course. Burning the courthouse merely dramatized the mob's contempt for constituted authority—so the Travis County jury has taken a highly significant step toward reasserting the State's dignity and power and vindicating its name.

This verdict may be only a beginning, however. Thirteen other defendants in the Sherman cases await trial, and most of them stand charged with offenses more serious than young McCasland's. Who actually applied the torch that destroyed the courthouse and took the life of the accused negro—locked in a vault for protection against the mob? Will that man or those men be found guilty and punished?

In the trial just completed, District Attorney Brooks pleaded that a conviction "would give notice to the United States that Texas juries do not approve destruction of property by a mob." But it is even more desirable—more necessary to peace and order—that juries should condemn unmistakably the taking of life by mobs.

Until that shall be done, can it justifiably be said that Texas legally has begun to fight the lynching evil?

ANTI-LYNCH RECORD IS LAUDED BY WOMEN

Constitution

Results in First Half of Year Are Praised by Two Organizations.

7-5-31

Two southern women's associations for the prevention of lynching Saturday issued statements of gratification at the south's record for the first six months of 1931.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching said "the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight against lynching."

Only five lynchings occurred throughout the United States during the first half of 1931, the Association pointed out, as compared with 30 for the same period of 1922 "in a similar period of depression."

The statement added that southern newspapers have played a leading part in the campaign against lynching and have supported various officials and officers and citizens "who by united action have prevented mob execution against 49 persons within the southern states alone."

The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching issued the second statement.

The Georgia association, the statement read, "is justly proud that the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 carries no mark against their state. Prompt action on the part of the governor, local officials and courageous individual citizens has brought about this gratifying situation, thus providing the protection of the law for eight persons."

The names of women from Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia were signed to the southern statement. Fourteen Georgia women signed the other.

THE ELBERT AFFAIR

We do not know what the people of Elbert county think of the prompt manner in which their officers acted to prevent that lynching down at Elberton the other day, but the rest of the country think that they set an example that the officers of the whole country should follow. And that preacher who faced the mob and begged for law and order showed that he had plenty of courage, a thing sadly lacking in all too many pulpits. Even a Negro who has assaulted a while woman is entitled to a fair trial on the bare chance that they might have the wrong man. Now, that a lynching has been averted, it is to be hoped that lawyers will not take advantage of technical points of law to drag the case from one court to another. Legal delays do more to create mob sentiment than any other single factor.—Pickens County Progress.

Kershaw, S. C. Era
Wednesday, May 20, 1931

THE DANGER OF MOB LAW
(The Dillon Herald)

The mayor of Pinewood, in Sumter county, was shot to death as he sat in his living room reading a newspaper. The assassin fled, but a trail led to the thrsehold of two Negroes —father and son. The Negroes were arrested and spirited to the penitentiary for safe keeping. Later evidence established the innocence of the Negroes and they were released.

But what would have happened if excitement had been running high and those Negroes had fallen into the hands of a mob? The lives of two innocent men would have been sacrificed to the spirit of mob law.

Mobs are not moved by the impulse of reason. If they were they would not be mobs. The mob is an unorganized collection of individuals without leadership, and acts on the impulse of the moment. Its sole motive is to take a life in revenge for a wrong or another life, and the question of the guilt or innocence of the victim is submerged for the time being by the desires and passions of the mob members.

Men who hold to the belief that mob law is a cure for social evil will find a sermon in the Sumter incident.

The foregoing utterance by A. B. Jordan, editor of the Dillon Herald, is worthy of careful and serious study and thought. Not only is the mob a menace because of the danger of taking the life of an innocent victim. but also because it is an unlawful act which so many seek to justify Mobs cannot be controlled and in some instances life has been taken in South Carolina in cases where the accused had committed only minor offences.

However much it may be true that certain crimes should be attended with the death penalty, the guilt of the accused should be established in the legal way and the sentence pronounced and carried into effect by due process of law. In that way only may sentiment be assured for law and order which will guarantee the protection of the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of all citizens.

DEMOCRAT
SHERMAN, TEX.

JUN 11 1931

Mob Law Wrong.

From the Greenville Banner:

Texas juries do not approve of property destruction by mobs was the silent voice of a verdict in Austin recently when a defendant in the first Sherman riot case tried was given a two year penitentiary sentence. The conviction was encouraging to the state and will probably hasten the trials of others charged with arson in connection with the burning of the Grayson county court house when a negro, attacker of a white woman was the victim of mob violence.

It was heinous crime committed by the black and had the mob stormed the court house and succeeded in taking him from peace officers, then hung him, the affair would have in all probability ended. The court house, a valuable building was totally destroyed, resulting in the expenditure of a large sum of money for replacement. Other valuable property was destroyed and it became necessary for martial law to be declared. Sherman was given a black eye because of the acts of a few.

In the southland where there is a dividing line between whites and blacks, where negroes are taught to stay in their places and do with few exceptions, blood runs hot when a crime is committed such as the one that led to the Sherman riot. Death at the hands of a mob has been the fate of many a negro who stepped out of his place, but within the past few years there has been a decrease in this activity and there should be.

We elect our peace officers to take care of such situations. Our courts are in operation to see that justice is wrought and justice in instances like that at Sherman, is speedily found as for instance the sentencing to death of rapists in other Texas counties when found guilty of a similar crime. Mob activity should certainly be discouraged and talked against. We can hold nothing but admiration for those who become indignant at crimes of this nature, but we cannot admire the man who destroys property and places lives in danger. These kind of characters deserve the extreme penalty of the law.

The United States has grown out of the barbaric stage. Her's is the highest type of civilization which does not include mob rioting and destruction in the steps of advancement. The law should handle disturbances which interest mobs and mobs should cease to be.

STATES
NEW ORLEANS, LA

JUN 1 1 1931

Texas and Lynching

IT may not be possible in Texas to convict a member of a mob of the crime of lynching. But when a mob destroys public property in connection with a lynching, that is a different story. Such is the conclusion to be drawn from a case recently tried in Travis county.

In Sherman county last year an infuriated mob burned to death a negro who was identified as the murderer of a young white woman. In doing so the courthouse was put to the torch and the county suffered serious financial loss.

The atrocity occurred in broad daylight. Many of the leaders of the mob, therefore, were recognizable, and some fourteen persons were arrested and subsequently indicted. One of these was J. B. M'Casland, a youth of 19, who was charged with having taken part in setting fire to the courthouse. The indictment was for arson.

Sherman sentiment condoned the crime, and it was clear that it was impossible to obtain a conviction in the county. The State, therefore, applied for and was granted a change of venue to Dallas county. There it was found impossible to obtain a jury, for one after another the veniremen indicated their sympathy with the lynchers. Thereupon the State applied for another change of venue and obtained it and the case went to Travis.

* * *

IN the Travis trial testimony was admitted that M'Casland had carried gasoline used in setting fire to the courthouse. But all evidence concerning the lynching was excluded. Nothwithstanding this, M'Casland was convicted and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

It remains to be seen what is to be the result in the case of the thirteen other defendants, most of them more gravely charged than was M'Casland. In the later trials there will be brought before the jury the bare fact that the negro was seized by the mob and burned to death.

Many of the Texas papers accept the verdict in the M'Casland case as setting a precedent—that it is possible to get juries in Texas to convict members of mobs who take the law in their own hands. But so far this is true only when public property suffers and the county has to foot the bill.

In the M'Casland case the district attorney said a conviction "would give notice to the United States that Texas juries do not approve destruction of property by a mob." That isn't what the country wants to hear. Only when Texas juries show that they value life higher than property and that when it is taken during a time of disorder the culprits will be sent to the penitentiary will Texas give evidence that lynching has become intolerable in that State.

Greensboro, N. C. News
Thursday, April 16, 1931

EDUCATION OF NEGRO IS SUBJECT OF TALK

Schoolmasters' Club Hears Dr. N. C. Newbold Tell About Progress of Race.

OFFICERS NOMINATED

Dr. N. C. Newbold, director of negro education in North Carolina, was the chief speaker at the Schoolmasters' club meeting which met in the Hylmore tea room last evening at 6:30 o'clock. Dr. Newbold pointed out the rapid progress and growth in facilities for negro education in this state during the last 10 years and directed attention to several handicaps which now prevent more efficient development.

The nominating committee, appointed by Guy B. Phillips, chairman of the club, gave a report which nominated officers for the Schoolmasters' club to serve during the coming year. L. R. Johnston, principal of the High Point Senior high school, was nominated for president; M. E. Younts, superintendent of schools in Alamance county, vice president; H. G. Owen, of the history department in the High Point high school, secretary. The club voted to hold the May meeting in High Point.

Dr. Newbold gave figures to show that the improvement in the preparation of negro teachers during the last 10 years has been remarkable. More than 1,000 of them at present have completed four years in approved colleges; 4,000 have completed from one to four years in approved colleges.

Another important factor in the development of negro education in this state, Mr. Newbold said, is the remarkable increase in the number and quality of negro school buildings. Although many of them were made possible by the Rosenwald fund, the negroes themselves have made substantial contributions toward the school building program, he said.

The increase in the number of accredited high schools for negroes has been significant, Dr. Newbold pointed out. From the group of 16,000 enrolled in negro high schools last year, 2,250 were graduated from accredited high schools.

Ten years ago, Dr. Newbold said, there were no standard colleges for negroes in North Carolina. At present there are five state accredited colleges and five private colleges. There were more than 2,500 enrolled last year in these institutions.

Dr. Newbold, after quoting from the Johnson bill which has been before the present state legislature for several weeks, declared that a decade has had quite a liberalizing effect on the law makers of the state.

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
Tuesday, June 16, 1931

Mr. Hall's Letter

In the letter column to the right, Ellsworth Hall, prominent Macon attorney, comments interestingly on the appeal of John Downer, the Elberton Negro, for protection of the Federal courts. While Mr. Hall's letter stands for itself, it will be observed that he says it is probable that if the case reaches the United States Supreme court, the Negro will be given protection of the Federal courts. Not to put words in Mr. Hall's letter, the inference is that the court probably will hold the trial as unfair.

Mr. Hall mentions an opinion delivered by Mr. Justice Holmes in the Frank case. In giving that opinion, Mr. Holmes was in the minority, Justice Hughes, now chief justice, joining him in dissent to the majority opnion. In a decision given nine years later, in an Arkansas case, the court had so changed its mental complexion that Mr. Justice Holmes delivered the opinion for the majority in which the Arkansas trial was held to be unfair because it was held in mob atmosphere. It is interesting that even since that second decision was delivered, the mental complexion has altered still more and that the court now has a majority of men who may be considered to have the same reactions, in a case of this sort, as Justice Holmes has had. Only two men who sat on the court when the Frank trial was upheld are now on the Supreme court bench.

The Telegraph thinks Mr. Hall too eager to condemn the newspapers. It is true that they—and The Telegraph has been among them—have continually condemned what they considered to be undue delay in disposing of criminal cases, but they have never argued for undue haste, on the other hand. One is as bad as the other.

A SHINING EXAMPLE.

Constitution
4-22-31
Atlanta Ga

The county of Campbell is to be congratulated upon the manner in which justice was vindicated by the trial of Fred Griffin, a negro tried and convicted in Campbell superior court, for the unprovoked murder of Sheriff Thomas W. Camp, a beloved citizen of that county.

Public indignation was stirred to white heat by the news of the assassination of this faithful officer while in the discharge of his duty.

As usual, rumors were rife that the crime would be promptly expiated by the visitation of summary justice upon the murderer, without recourse to the courts of justice.

Judge John B. Hutcheson was holding court in DeKalb county when these rumors reached him, and he promptly adjourned the court and and hastened to the county seat of Campbell county, calling into conference the mayor of Fairburn, the chief of police and other county and city officials, urging them to promptly take every possible step to preserve the enviable reputation of Campbell county, for law and order.

With characteristic firmness and diplomacy, this distinguished judge demanded a fair and orderly trial of the prisoner, and promised a prompt and impartial trial, with the statement that the defendant would be given the benefit of able and experienced counsel, for his defense.

He mingled with the citizens of Campbell county, and his wise counsel met with spontaneous and unanimous approval.

When the case came on for trial, Judge Hutcheson appointed capable, fearless and experienced lawyers, without expense to the defendant, to whom they gave the full benefit of their representation without compensation.

Although the courtroom was crowded to capacity, no military guard was invoked, and the trial was conducted without the slightest manifestation of disorder or disturbance.

The charge of the court was full, clear and impartial, and after its deliberations, the jury found the only verdict possible under the evidence and the law.

The crime committed by the defendant will be expiated by his electrocution at an early date, and not only the county of Campbell, but the entire state of Georgia has been spared the merited rebuke of lawlessness which always follows mob violence.

Judge Hutcheson, the local officials and the people of Campbell county, have set an example which should, and doubtless will, be followed in every county where law and order are paramount to prejudice and passion.

They have demonstrated that courage, firmness and fidelity in the enforcement of the law, will uphold its supremacy, where military aid has proven ineffective.

The record in this case establishes the precedent that change of venue, dilatory pleading and frivolous appeals will become obsolete, where impartial justice is promptly, intelligently and firmly administered.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

White Press, (Southern.)

3319

WILMINGTON, N. C.
NEWS DISPATCH

APR 7 - 1931

Woman Speaker Deplores Lynchings In Southland

Communists Note Lynchings, Miss Cox Says; Use Them As Propaganda

GOLDSBORO, April 7.— (AP) — "Every outbreak of mob violence and every lynching is corefully noted by communists and used in their propaganda among negroes," Miss Clara Cox of High Point declared in an address prepared for delivery before the public welfare department of women's clubs here today.

The division of women's clubs is meeting in connection with the 19th annual convention of the North Carolina conference for social service.

Miss Cox discussed some reasons why southern white women are beginning to protest against lynchings and detailed organized efforts among white women to prevent mob violence.

"A primary excuse for lynching," she said, "Is that it is necessary for the protection of southern white women. This makes it doubly essential that the group supposed to be protected in this manner should seek to reveal the fundemental fallacy of this excuse. Of the 21 lynchings last year, eight were for rape and two for attempted rape. Realizing the hideousness of this terrible crime, we are, nevertheless, convinced that lynching is not so apt to act as a deterrent as the swift and orderly processes of law.

"In this connection there should be mentioned instances that come to light revealing the fact that some of the crimes against women are committed by white men disguised as negroes.

"It is quite probable that one or more of the negroes lynched last year were innocent victims of a frameup."

Miss Cox mentioned the following which she cited as "instances:"

"Battling a black assailant in her home in Norfolk, Va., in November 1929, a woman tore open his shirt and discovered that he was white. His face was blackened and his hands were covered with rubber gloves.

"A girl in Louisville, Ky., after beating off an attacker whom she thought a negro discovered that her face and hands were covered with smoot which had rubbed off on her during the struggle.

"In August 1930 a North Carolina daily carried the headline 'Three Negroes Kidnap White Girl,' based on the unsupported story of a youth who represented himself as the girl's escort at the time. A manhunt began at once and excitement ran high. Before the day was over, however, officers were beginning to believe that the whole story was faked by the youth who told it, perhaps for the purpose of concealing some misdeeds of his own. Within 24 hours, nobody believed a word of it. Had his story been a bit more plausible, the consequences might have been tragic."

WINSTON SALEM, N. C
SENTINEL

APR 8 - 1931

MISS CLARA COX RAPS LYNCHING

Denies It Is Efficacious in Protection of White Women.

Goldsboro (AP).—Every outbreak of mob violence and every lynching is carefully noted by Communists and used in their propaganda among negroes, Miss Clara Cox, of High Point, declared in an address prepared for delivery before the public welfare department of women's clubs here today.

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"A primary excuse for lynching," she said, "is that it is necessary for the protection of Southern white women. This makes it doubly essential that the group supposed to be protected in this manner should seek to reveal the fundamental fallacy of this excuse. Of the twenty-one lynchings last year, eight were for rape and two for attempted rape. Realizing the hideousness of this terrible crime, we are, nevertheless, convinced that lynching is not so apt to act as a deterrent as the swift and orderly processes of law.

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Chattanooga, Tenn. News
Wednesday, May 20, 1931

Three Cheers for Georgia

Press dispatches Tuesday tell of the frustration of a threatened lynching in a little Georgia town named Elberton. So different is this story than were several others last year, in which efforts to prevent outrages upon law itself were listless and quite futile, that we cannot refrain from noting with extreme approval the new Georgia attitude.

For several years past, Georgia has allowed her escutcheon to be darkened by hideous mob actions against negroes accused of crime. At Cartersville, Thomasville, Darien, Ailey, and Ocilla, the record was quite damning as to the fair name of our neighbor state. But not so Monday night at Elberton.

Several negroes were accused of a particularly brutal assault upon a white girl. They were apprehended, and put in the jail at Elberton. Signs were noted of the gathering of a mob. National guardsmen from Atlanta, Elberton, and Monroe hastened to the scene.

National guard had been on hand at earlier lynchings. On one conspicuous instance, they loafed about while the mob broke in the jail and murdered the suspect in his cell. But not so at Elberton.

The mob gathered, some 5,000 men in number—and, perhaps, with women in the crowd, for in many of last year's lynchings, women have been on hand, urging their men folks to heinous deeds of violence.. The 200 guardsmen confronted the mob at Elberton. At first, they tried to hold them back with smoke bombs and tear grenades. They attached a hose to fire hydrants and turned it on the crowd.

The tear bombs failed, the smoke blew away, the mob wrested the hose from the guardsmen's hands. All was ready for the overwhelming of law and order, the submerging of the guardsmen in one great rush, and the lynching of the culprits in the jail.

But these guardsmen at Elberton knew their duty, and knew full well that upon them rested the maintenance of the peace and dignity of their state. They turned their machine guns upon the rushing maniacs. The mob was stopped by a rain of bullets, aimed low, so as to wound, but not to kill; the negroes were removed from the jail at Elberton, and placed in safekeeping in Atlanta. Here was one Georgia mob which did not have its way.

All honors to those 200 soldiers, who kept their heads and foiled the endeavors of the mob. If these negroes are guilty of the crime charged against them, their lives will be quickly forfeited by operation of the law. But they will have their day in court, as is their due and right. Georgia, at Elberton, has maintained its self-respect. Three cheers, we say, for this new spirit of law and order and civilization in Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., Journal
Wednesday, May 20, 1931

Good for Elberton!

THE PROMPTNESS and vigor with which an attempt at mob rule was suppresed at Elberton is a credit to that community and a source of satisfaction to thinking people throughout the State. The incident shows that courageous officials, resolute in upholding the law, can succeed, no matter how heavy the odds at the moment may appear. Those who were responsible for orderly justice in this case, knowing their duty, did it with cool heads and fearless hearts. At the crisis they did not hesitate to ask to be reinforced by the National Guard, and the Guardsmen proved worthy of their colors. All who bore a part in this determined and effective stand against lawlessness merit the commendation of their community and commonwealth. They have set an example which authorities everywhere will do well to note, and which enlightened public judgment is certain to applaud.

STATES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MAY 20 1931

Duty Well Done

GEORGIA'S lynching record has been a very bad one, before and since the Frank case. The fact that a governor, a sheriff and the national guard of the State have foiled a desperate attempt to seize and hang two negroes charged with attacking a white girl is, therefore, to the credit of the Empire State.

The scene of the attempted lynching was at Elberton where the alleged culprits were incarcerated. When the sheriff learned that there was every likelihood that an attempt would be made to take the prisoners from jail, he called for troops, the Governor responded and the large mob gathered to take the law into their own hands met strong and effective resistance.

Repeated attacks were made by the mob on the prison, but each time with the use of machine guns, tear grenades, smoke bombs and other implements of war the attackers were repulsed, and the negroes spirited away to Atlanta. Incidentally two of the mob, white men, were shot down and one of them may die.

If the authorities in every county in Georgia in similar instances will show the same nerve in upholding the majesty of the law and putting down mob violence, even if the intended victims are negroes, it will not be long before Georgia will clear itself of the unenviable reputation it has borne for many years.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
Monday, May 25, 1931

/ ELBERTON SHOWS THE WAY

It is to be hoped every sheriff in Georgia has read of the courageous and successful efforts of the officials of Elberton who, in the face of an angry mob, saved their prisoners from lynching and saved the state from another disgrace

Mobs generally are cowardly and a proper display of authority on the part of officials will often hold them at bay. The Elberton mob had been worked into a thirst for blood and to a determination to carry out its aim. It was a more difficult one to handle than mobs usually are.

Persons who join mobs forget that law and order officials, in performing their duty, are not passing on the guilt or innocence of a prisoner. They are protecting the majesty of the law and the good name of the commonwealth.

The Elberton officials went as far as they could with their own powers of resistance, and they did much. When matters threatened to be taken out of their hands, they called for National Guard reinforcement. This body did its duty in a way that showed the mob it meant to uphold law and order regardless of consequences. If some members of the mob were injured there can be no regret except for the spirit which tempted them to defy the law.

Every action of the Elberton officials was in line with the attitude of the law-abiding element of Elberton and of the state. The public servants who prevented the mob from lynching prisoners are worthy of the praise of all good citizens.

Elberton has charted a course which should be followed by officials of all other counties where a similar situation might arise.

ADVERTISER
Metter, Ga.

MAY 21 1931

WHY LYNCHINGS OCCUR

Recently we visited the town of Elberton, Ga., was there on a Sunday afternoon. On that Sunday afternoon, a Negro made improper remarks to a young white lady on the street of that city, there was talk of a lynching and the negro was spirited away for safe keeping. Just a short time after that occurance two negros, in the same county and near the city of Elberton, attacked a young white woman. There wasa mob and they were anxious to lynch the negros. The negro in the first case was still in "safe keeping", when the second crime was committed. But if the negro in the first case had been lynched there would have certainly not been a second which was much more serious than the first. We all believe in and have respect for the law until someting happens as did at Elberton, then the people rise up and punish or attempt to punish in a barbarious manner. There have been lynching for generations, particularly in the South and there will be under our present Social Code lynching in the future. or until the law is amended in such a way as to speed the criminals, the would be lynch victims,from the place of crime to punishment. For instance, if the people of Elberton had known that the negros who they were attempting to lynch would be. if found guilty and it is said that they have plead guilty, put to death in the electric chair within a week or ten days even a month there would have not been as many interested in lynching the criminals as there was under our present system of punishing, lawfully, for crimes of that nature.

NEWS
CHARLESTON, S. C.

MAY 26 1931

They Hold a Brief for Lynching

Writing to the governor of Alabama in protest that eight negroes are under the death sentence because they are negroes and saying that their condemnation and execution would be like to lynching them, Theodore Dreiser and Lincoln Steffens betray themselves controlled by the American lynching spirit in its rawness.

These two men, occupying high places in the world of letters, brush aside the verdict of the jury at Scottsboro and decide for themselves that the eight men should not be executed.

That precisely is what a mob of Southern ruffians has so often done before a jury has been permitted to pass upon the law and the evidence. That is a mob decision.

The spirit in which these gentlemen of the "intelligentsia" would dismiss the finding of the court in Alabama is identical with the spirit that might have caused a mob to kill the eight prisoners had they been acquitted.

It is a singular characteristic of American life that among the so-called intellectuals ignorance of the principles of law upon which organized society rests is as common as amng the "boobs", the "yokels." William Lloyd Garrison, honest and brilliant fanatic, was an apostle of lynching. John Brown, crazed fanatic, was a common, vulgar lyncher. Men of their type have been idealized by men of the stamp of Dreiser and Steffens—and they are all lawless men, as were those pitiable creatures in Walhalla and in Union who hanged negroes last year.

Notable progress has been made in the South in putting down lynching. It has been made against odds—and of the obstructions placed in the path of Southerners disgusted, horrified, and alarmed by the persistence of lynching the most embarrassing and hindering have been placed by outsiders.

Theodore Dreiser and Lincoln Steffens perhaps in no circumstances could be induced to participate in the lynching of a negro, but, were they in South Carolina, they could not be trusted to abstain from demolishing laws upon which the security of its people and their civilization rest. Their protest to the governor of Alabama is by no means a protest against lynching. They present a brief for it.

Troops Intelligently Used

The situation in Elberton, Ga., which led to the ordering out of units of the National Guard to protect a Negro charged with attacking a white woman, is revealed in the fact that the request to the governor came from the mayor, the chief of police, the sheriff and the judge of the Elberton City court, from the further fact that a Baptist minister and the chief of police had urged the mob to let the law take its course, and from the final fact that before the troops arrived the mob had actually entered the jail and beaten the locks of the prisoner's cell in the effort to reach him. To these should be added the presence, after the troops were on the ground, of a colonel of the Georgia National Guard, an officer of such rank as to suggest it was not hot-headedness or inexperience which led to the use of bullets to beat back the persistent efforts of mob to storm the jail.

In point of fact, every reasonable means seems to have been used before bullets were resorted to. Appeals to the mob failed, the use of fire hose failed, and tear bombs proved ineffectual. Even when bullets were used, the casualty list was confined to one man shot in the hip, presumably by fire from troops, and another man wounded in the leg from an unidentified source. Plainly here was neither too sudden use of firearms or too great a use of them.

In brief, the Elberton picture, as it is described in the news dispatches, reveals care and restraint quite as much as it does firmness and determination. The net result is to demonstrate how troops can be skillfully and successfully employed in an exceedingly difficult and dangerous situation, to the end that the law shall be protected and a mad mob prevented from perpetrating an act of savagery. The picture is all the more welcome after the lamentable failure of the National Guard in the Darien, Ga., lynching of last September, and the even worse failure in Maryville, Mo., in January. In the latter instance a company of National Guardsmen were in the town and were awaiting orders from the sheriff. The orders did not come and the prisoner was tied to the ridge-pole of a school house and burned to death while the troops who might have prevented such a bestial murder remained quietly in the building where they were assembled. Such a feeling as that displayed in Elberton makes it easily possible that the mob spirit will rise again, but at the moment the control of the National Guard seems effective.—Virginia Pilot and Norfolk Landmark.

The Macon Telegraph 5/25/31

WHEELING, W. VA.
REGISTER

MAY 1 - 1931

ONE WOMAN AND A MOB

From the New York World-Telegram.

A courageous woman last Saturday saved a Negro from a mob in Tennessee, while in a nearby town another Negro was taken from the jail and hanged in the courthouse yard.

The sheriff's wife, who saved the Negro, saved justice.

While we wish there were more like her, neither Tennessee nor any other state should have to depend upon lone women to avert the stigma of mob violence.

There should be a federal statute outlawing lynching, and federal enforcement.

The Republican party's platform of 1928 said:—

"We renew our recommendation that the Congress enact at the earliest possible date a federal anti-lynching law so that the full influence of the federal government may be wielded to exterminate this hideous crime."

In an official document issued recently by the Republican National Committee, the party's platform pledges are listed in one column and in a parallel column is told what has been done to fulfil each of them. Besides the anti-lynching plank is a blank space.

Yet President Hoover said:—"Platform pledges must not be empty gestures."

This should be remembered by the Republican spokesmen now barnstorming the South.

Meanwhile, what do the Democrats propose to do about the national disgrace of lynching?

Lynchings-1931 & Discussions.

3320

White Press, (Southern.)

LYNCHING CONDEMNED BY METHODIST WOMEN

Constitution

2-5-31

Resolution, Supporting Dry Law, Also Adopted at Athens Meeting.

Atlanta, Ga

ATHENS, Ga., Feb. 4.—Condemnation of lynching was expressed in a resolution adopted here today by members of the North Georgia Methodist Womens' Missionary Society. The women pledged their support of efforts to stop the practice.

The conference also adopted the following resolution in connection with prohibition:

"Resolved, first, that the Woman's Missionary Society of the North Georgia conference go on record as being unequivocally in favor of the eighteenth amendment and all laws pertaining thereto; and second, that we pledge ourselves to an active participation in an educational and legislative program looking toward enlistment of women and youth in the prohibition cause."

The conference adopted plans of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, for changing the department of social service to the department of Christianizing social relations, and will carry on an intensive educational campaign in inter-racial and industrial relations

The conference abolished the off of corresponding secretary and c a conference secretary, elec M. E. Tilly, of Atlanta. Mrs. Tilly was formerly ent of childrens' work.

Mrs. E. W. Brogdon, ta, was re-elected treasurer; M J. E. McEachern, Atlanta, president, and Mrs. L. W. Awtry, Marietta, was elected vice president to succeed Mrs. W. A. Allbright.

Efforts "to obtain peace and to help in dismembering war machines" were advocated tonight by Bishop John M. Moore, of the Methodist Church, South, in an address before the convention.

"I feel ashamed that the United States did not enter the League of Nations," he said. "I favor the World Court, with improvements over the present one, the Kellogg peace pact, naval and disarmament conferences, and any other means which seek peace."

NEWS

Jackson, Miss.

FEB 4 - 1931

PROTESTS AGAINST LYNCHING

Several days ago the Daily News gave gentle warning to a group of splendid Mississippi women who assembled in Jackson to adopt resolutions against lynching that they were doing a vain and useless thing; that their protests, no matter how sincere, would serve merely to call attention to something that inevitably happens when provoked by extraordinary circumstances, and resolutions, no matter how earnest or sincere, cannot curb it.

Melancholy proof of the folly of agitating the subject of lynching by resolutions of protest is furnished in the current issue of The Chicago Defender, the leading negro newspaper of the United States, published in Chicago, which discusses the subject editorially as follows:

> "The real victim of a lynching is not so much the person done to death as it is the constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other.'
>
> The above sentences were contained in a resolution adopted by a group of southern white women assembled at Atlanta recently. These women came together to do what they could to help break down the mistaken notion that they desire or appreciate the taking of human life by obs, presumably in their behalf. They went ther in their resolution and pledged themselves to fight mob action with all their might until white men found some other reason than women for perpetrating their most vicious crimes against humanity.
>
> It is well that white women have begun to realize their responsibility in this matter. The world is rapidly learning to draw its own conclusions which are not entirely complimentary to the women who furnish a great percentage of the excuses for lynchings. People are beginning to ask just why it is that the white man feels he must kill one black man to keep another black man from looking with covetous eyes at a white woman. What is there about a black man or about a white woman that makes such desperate steps necessary?
>
> Are white women so weak, morally, mentally or physically, that the horrible specter of a lynching must always stand between them and the men upon whom they might choose to bestow their favors? No one with an ounce of intelligence believes that every person lynched in the South on a rape charge was guilty of rape in the legal sense of the term. There is too much evidence to support the contrary opinion, in spite of the evident desire of the white man to keep this information from general circulation.
>
> There is the Robinson case in Mississippi where a man was lynched in jail for "rape" while the "outraged" white woman was shouting to the world that she loved him and gave herself to him willingly. There was the case in Maryland where a man is awaiting death in the electric chair for attacking a white woman while it is general knowledge that the man and the woman have been together on numerous occasions, and that she cried "rape" when discovered. Mississippi offers us another case where two bellboys in a hotel were mutilated by a mob because they were said to have been discovered in a hotel room with two white women. The women, according to evidence, had made no outcry and only joined the "rape" column after the house detective had broken in upon them.
>
> We could go on and cite other cases—there are still others where the facts are not quite as clear as these, yet point to similar circumstances. Certainly there is room to support the statements that white women are more the victims of a lynching than are the men killed by the mobs. The sufferings of the man put to death are of but a few moments duration at most, while the woman thus exposed is made a lifetime victim.
>
> Perhaps this reasoning is a bit subtle for the mob-minded morons of the white race who conceive and execute bizarre and exotic forms of torture for black victims, but there is hope for a remedy since white women are becoming articulate. We are grateful to these women of the South who have taken up the fight against lynchings, even though we know their motives are not as altruistic as selfish. Lynchings ought to be wiped out, not so much for the benefit of the black race, but for the self-respect of the entire nation and its standing in the eyes of the world.

After reading the above outrageous libel of Southern women, we cannot believe that the good women who met here last month and adopted anti-lynching resolutions are going to feel like waging a militant crusade against this form of crime common to all sections of our nation when provoked by unusual circumstances.

A few days before that group of women, guided by a professional agitator, met in Jackson and adopted resolutions, a negro was burned at the stake up in Missouri after confessing that he had criminally assaulted a school teacher. It happened above the Mason and Dixon line.

A few days after their meeting a white man was lynched in North Dakota for the crime of murder. North Dakota is also above the Mason and Dixon line.

The Chicago Defender editorial, insofar as its references to negro men and white women in Mississippi is concerned, is an outrageous lie. No negro was ever lynched in this commonwealth while a white woman "was shouting to the world that she loved him and gave herself to him willingly." There is no record anywhere of two bellboys being "mutilated by a mob because they were said to have been discovered in a hotel room with two white women."

A lynching, under any circumstances, is regrettable. It is poor revenge, no matter how great the provocation. This writer, during the past thirty years in the course of duty as a newspaper man, has witnessed a dozen or more executions without the formality of law, and they were ghastly, sickening, revolting in every instance.

Nevertheless, when the leading negro newspaper of the United States, religiously read by a million or more members of that race, declares that "People are beginning to ask just why it is that the white man feels he must kill some black man to keep another black from looking with covetous eyes at a white woman," we must confess that the earnestness and vehemence of the many editorials we have written against the crime of lynching is visibly weakened.

There may be instances of total depravity among white women in the South—this writer recalls two that have occurred within the past thirty years—but it is far less common in this section than in Chicago, New York, Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, and other cities where "social equality" prevails, and sexual relations between negro men and white women are common.

It is not a pleasant subject for discussion, editorially or otherwise, but no apology is necessary for presenting it in this manner. It is sincerely hoped that the splendid group of Mississippi women who met over at the Hotel Edwards last month, at the behest of a paid propagandist of the Southern Inter-Racial Commission, will carefully read and ponder in their hearts the negro view of the question as set forth in The Chicago Defender editorial above quoted.

DENISON, TEX.
HERALD

FEB 6 - 1931

CURRENT COMMENT

"THE LYNCHING BELT."

One result of the latest two events in the realm of mob violence is creation of the necessity of redefining the boundaries of the "lynching belt," a term for some years contemptuously applied to the South by certain professional friends of the colored race in the North.

The substantial law-respecting people in the South, and they are in the majority in this section, deplore lynching wherever it occurs, and favor punishment for lynchers that is deserved by all murderers. This class of people in the South take no pleasure in witnessing mob violence in the North, notwithstanding many people in the North have undertaken to make it appear that lynching is an evil peculiar to the South.

The fact that the two lynchings that have thus far occurred in 1931 took place north of Mason and Dixon's line is something deserving of attention. It is clear evidence that lynching is not a sectional evil, not peculiar to "Southern barbarian," but a crime that is likely to be perpetrated anywhere that sufficiently strong incentive is furnished.

These two lynchings, the one in Missouri and the other in North Dakota, are reminders that Northern mobs can dip just as deep into savagery as do Southern mobs, when blood lust is aroused and men throw reason and restraint to the winds. They emphasize anew that the Mason and Dixon line is not he northern boundary of "the lynching belt." No. t is to be regretted, the boundary line of that belt runs around virtually the whole nation. Mob violence is our national disgrace.—Houston Post-Dispatch.

Mobs Sometimes Right

To The Commercial Appeal:

In the matter of W. H. James' letter on lynching in The Commercial Appeal, Feb. 2.

Commercial Appeal

History gives no record of lynching prior to reconstruction days for several reasons.

The slave-holders and slaves of the pre-Civil War time, out of whose relations lynchings did, or could, take place, were not representative of either people, any more than the Sicilian expatriates and shopping women in Chicago stores, out of whose accidental coinciding the murder of innocent bystanders (or fleers) occurs, are representative of European emigrants or American women and children, or of the General Cooks and the George Rogers Clarks who made Chicago possible.

Secondly, there was no need for lynching until after reconstruction days.

2-15-31

Thirdly, the people of the black race who get lynched are not representative of the black race, just as the people who lynch them are not representative of the white race.

Memphis Tenn.

No balanced man can, I believe, hold any moral brief for lynching. Yet we in America have seen, ever since we set up to guide our own integral destiny, miscarriage of elementary justice on all hands. Like all new lands, not yet aware of our own strength, we have been the prey of opportunist and demagogues; of men whose sole claim to rule us was that they had not a clean shirt to their backs. So is it strange that at times we take violently back into our own hands that justice which we watched go astray in the blundering hands of those into which we put it voluntarily? I don't say that we do not blunder with our 'home-made' justice. We do. But he who was victim of our blundering, also blundered. I have yet to hear, outside of a novel or a story, of a man of any color and with a record beyond reproach, suffering violence at the hands of men who knew him.

It will be said that the standard for a black man is stricter than that for a white man. This is obvious. To make an issue of it is to challenge and condemn the natural human desire which is in any man, black or white, to take advantage of what circumstance, not himself, has done for him. The strong (mentally or physically) black man takes advantage of the weak one; he is not only not censured, he is protected by law. since (and the white man the same) the law has found out that the many elemental material factors which compose a commonwealth are of value only when they are in the charge of some one, regardless of color and size and religion, who can protect them.

It requires a certain amount of sentimentality, an escaping from the monotonous facts of day by day, to make a lynching. Note the crimes in compensation of which lynching occurs. Sacredness of womanhood, we call it. Not a thing, but a reaction; something so violent and so nebulous that even all the law words can not pin it down, since the law words were all invented in lands and by people who had had time to outgrow (or who could not afford) our American susceptibility to vocal resonance.

Lynching is an American trait, characteristic. It is the black man's misfortune that he suffers it, just as it is his misfortune that he suffers the following instances of white folks' sentimentality.

Let James go to his county tax collector, who will tell him (this county being fairly representative of Mississippi hill country as distinct from the delta) that there is more white-owned land sold up for taxes than colored-owned, though the delinquent list be the same. There may be reason for this white man's reason: as, for instance, it will be proved that the colored man had never had title to the land at all, having used, as they do, two or even three separate names in making trades or borrowing money from the government loan associations, and so having used the land tax-free for a year and made a crop and moved on. Thus: Joe Johnson arranges with a white man and a bank to buy a piece of land. He is about to make a good crop; he is a hard worker; maybe he runs the neighborhood blacksmith shop; he is getting ahead. Then one day the cashier of the bank and the Farm Loan secretary compare notes and they find that a certain John Jones has borrowed $700 on land identical in description with that in the temporary possession of one Joe Johnson. There's nothing to do. Joe Johnson, or John Jones, tricked two white men. "Oh, well," the white men, the cashier and the secretary say, "he's a good man. He may make out." And he not only may and will, but he perhaps does make a good crop by hard work. But he has first committed one felony in person and a second one by proxy in permitting to compound it one of that unwitting race which holds with the Bible that justice is a matter of violent and immediate retribution on the person of the sinner: a sentimentalist.

There is a colored man, a friend who has helped me in my need and whom I have helped in his, who has eaten of my bread and between whom and myself the crass material balance of labor and recompense has long since faded from our ken, to be perhaps totted and receipted for in some better place, he hopes, who tells me now and then of his brother. They are sons of a slave. The brother went to Detroit years ago, where, he writes back, "he has not done a lick of work in 15 years, because the white folks up there give him food. All he has to do is, fall in a line at a designated place on a designated day, and receive the food or its equivalent in a printed form, which he sells to wop and bohunk immigrants who have not yet learned to talk enough English to save the middleman's profit."

In Europe they don't lynch people. But think of a man living for 15 years and doing nothing at all, in France say, or Italy. It cannot be done anywhere under the sun except in America.

James speaks of . . . "as humble and submissive as . . . ." Let him think about this. Humility and submissiveness is usually the part of a weak person waiting to take his advantage, without regard to color. Humility and submissiveness are as false a part of a black man's social equipment as of a white man's. He does not need them. And the black man who is a valuable integer in the social fabric (property owner, merchant; any one who does a fair day's labor and receives a fair day's wage and applies it toward the comfort of his present life and the security of his old age) has no reason to assume humility. And he does not do it. In fact, there is a certain class of colored people who trade in humility just as there is a certain class of people who trade in man's other weaknesses and vices; it just happens that the colored man is better fitted to trade in humility, as the Irishman is for politics.

James reminds us that history records no lynchings prior to reconstruction days. Neither does history record any peculiar and noticeable removal to, and sojourn in, the south of Yankees until that period. Particularly New Englanders, who had some time since begun to practice the custom of hanging people of whose conduct they did not approve. I have lived in Mississippi all my 30 years, yet most of the lynching with which I am acquainted have occurred in outland newspapers; vide three I read of in French newspapers in Paris during a period of nine weeks, one of which happened at Oregon, D. C., Washington, the second at Halma, Alabama, D. C., America, and the third at a place called NveZique. They had photographs, flames and all, and the men there, looking at the camera. Most of them wore smock coats, and one man near the front had on wooden shoes.

I hold no brief for lynching. No balanced man will deny that mob violence serves nothing, just as he will not deny that a lot of our natural and logical jurisprudence serves nothing either. It just happens that we—mobber and mobbee—live in this age. We will muddle through, and die in our beds, the deserving and the fortunate among us. Of course, with the population what it is, there are some of us that won't. Some will die rich, and some will die on cross-ties soaked with gasoline, to make a holiday. But there is one curious thing about mobs. Like our juries, they have a way of being right.

WILLIAM FALKNER.

Oxford, Miss.

HUNTINGTON, W. VA.
ADVERTISER

JAN 15 1931

Lynch Law in England

The views of a British commission on lynching, recently expressed in a report on the merits of capital punishment, are interesting on this side of the ocean, especially since only a few days ago a middle western state was disgraced by a horrible instance of mob violence. The commission was chosen from among the members of the British house of commons and instructed to inquire into the advisability of abolishing the death sentence. It was confronted with the argument that to outlaw death penalties in heinous crimes might merely lead the public to perform the execution itself in those cases where opinion was strongly aroused. Abolish capital punishment for murder, it was contended, and we shall have lynch law in Great Britain. The committee rejected this line of reasoning with, the following comment:

"Such courses (lynching) are alien to the genius and habits of the British people. During this century, from 1901 to 1929, 327 murderers have been reprieved, some of them guilty of the most horrible and atrocious crimes; yet public opinion, while it might not always approve their reprieve, never resorted to mob violence, even when it drew fierce contrasts between those executed and those reprieved."

In other words, no matter how horrible the crime, even in those instances where the British public has felt there was a miscarriage of justice through the use of executive clemency, it has never resorted to lynch execution. For this and other reasons the majority of the committee recommended the suspension of capital punishment throughout Great Britain as an experimental period of five years. It is significant that the committee found no connection between lynching and the absence of the legal death penalty in any part of the United States. The old defense of lynch law, that it is used for fear the accused might escape proper punishment, is again discredited.

HIGH POINT, N. C.
ENTERPRISE

FEB 7 1931

MISS COX IS HEAD OF ANTI-LYNCHERS

North Carolina Association For the Prevention of Lynching Is Formed At Greensboro

Miss Clara I. Cox of this city was elected chairman of the North Carolina Association for the Prevention of Lynching launched yesterday at a meeting of 15 women in the Greensboro Y. W. C. A. Mrs. H. S. Weinberg of Greensboro was named secretary.

Completion of the organization of an administrative committee of 12 was left in the hands of a special committee composed of Miss Harriet Elliott and Mrs. W. A. Newell, of Greensboro, and Miss Gertrude Weil, of Greensboro.

"For nine years our state was free from lynchings," said a resolution adopted at the organization meeting. "We bow in shame that her clean record has again been sullied by the crime. We therefore respond to the call of other southern states and pledge ourselves to cooperate with them and to educate through public opinion creating agencies to the end that lynching may be eradicated.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

White Press, (southern.)

3321

Women Gather Here and Condemn Mob Law in Georgia

Constitution 1-15-31

Two separate organizations—the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the Georgia Interracial Commission—met in Atlanta Wednesday to condemn mob violence in the state. Prominent figures in the women's session are shown above. Left to right, seated, Miss Abigail Curler, Decatur; Mrs. Willie Snow Ethridge, Macon; Miss Lucy Mason, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Julian Harris, Atlanta; Mrs. Alonzo Park, Lithonia; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan; Mrs. W. T. Morton, Atlanta; Mrs. [illegible] Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs. John J. Egan, Atlanta; Mrs. Harry L. Gershon, Atlanta, and Miss Annie Linton, Athens. Rear, standing, left to right, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta; Mrs. C. A. Ver Nooy, Athens, and Miss Elizabeth Head, Athens. Staff photo by George Cornett.

Campaign Is Launched Here Against Mob Law in State

Constitution 1-15-31
Atlanta, Ga.

Women's Association and Interracial Group Hold Separate Meetings and Condemn Georgia Lynchings.

Vigorous condemnation of lynching and consideration of methods by which mob law may be eliminated in Georgia formed the theme of two separate meetings here Wednesday—one by the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and the other by the Georgia Interracial Commission, which held its annual session at the Y. M. C. A.

At each meeting leaders deplored the record of six lynchings during 1930 set by Georgia, and expressed the conviction that mob law vengeance does not directly or indirectly typify the sentiments of law-abiding Georgians.

The meeting of the women was held at the Piedmont hotel and was attended by leaders from several sections of the state, while several other women were represented by proxy. The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching is affiliated with the recently organized Anti-Lynching Association of Women of the Southern States, which was established in Atlanta in November.

A resolution denouncing lynching as a protection to the womanhood of the south was adopted, and, among other sentiments, it expressed humiliation at the 1930 lynchings perpetrated in the state. As citizens accepting a share of the responsibility for mob law activities, the resolution condemned the practice and pledged the members to "do everything in our power to correct it."

Government Is Victim.

"The real victim of lynching," the resolution affirmed, "is not so much the person done to death, but constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other."

"We shall not remain idle," the resolution continued, "indifferent or acquiescent. We shall carry on a campaign of education and action for the prevention of lynching. We shall seek to have brought to justice persons who are participants in this crime." The resolution concluded with a call upon the women of all southern states to join in the movement "to rid the south of a crime which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianity and destroys our government."

Those attending the women's meeting were Miss Abigail Curler, Decatur; Mrs. Willie Snow Ethridge, Macon; Miss Lucy Mason, Richmond Va.; Mrs. Julian Harris, Atlanta; Mrs. Alonzo Park, Lithonia; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan; Mrs. W. T. Morton, Atlanta; Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs. John J. Eagan, Atlanta; Mrs. Henry L. Gershon, Atlanta; Mrs. Annie Linton, Athens; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta; Mrs. C. A. VerNooy, Athens, and Miss Elizabeth Head, Athens.

Those represented by proxy at the meeting were:

Mrs. H. H. Hirsch, Mrs. B. F. Boykin, Mrs. W. Frank Smith, of Atlanta; Mrs. E. B. Harrold, Macon; Mrs. R. E. Lee, Fitzgerald; Mrs. Virlyn Moore, Bolton; Mrs. Wellington Stevenson, Decatur; Mrs. Audley Morton, Athens; Miss Mary Dickinson, Mrs. W. A. Albright and Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, of Atlanta.

Woman's Committee Formed.

The women's meeting was presided over by Mrs. W. A. Turner, of Newnan. In addition to adoption of the resolution condemning lynching, an administrative committee was appointed to act ad interim. Its members were: Mrs. Julian Harris, Mrs. W. T. Martin, Mrs. W. A. Turner, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Mrs. W. A. Albright and Mrs. H. H. Hirsch.

At the State Interracial Commission meeting Chief of Police Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, president of the Georgia Association of Sheriffs and Peace Officers, declared that "even a rigid enforcement of traffic laws will prevent lynching." Chief Watkins termed lynching as "the blackest blot smeared across our history, but a crime which practically any determined police chief can prevent if he will only work quick enough."

As added precautions against mob law vengeance, the Macon chief sai that every jail in the state should equipped with tear gas bombs and submachine guns for use in emergencies. Among the causes of lynchings he mentioned "race prejudice, slow processes of justice, crooked lawyers, political fear and legal loopholes." He recommended fearless law enforcement and speedy trials, the education of public opinion, precautionary measures, and fearless prosecution of those guilty of mob violence.

Pulpit Campaign Urged.

The commission adopted a unanimous resolution recommending that every minister in Georgia deliver from his pulpit during 1931 a vigorous protest against lynching and other forms of mob violence.

Encouraging facts in the interracial situation, pointed out by Arthur Raper, secretary of the commission, included that of the unfavorable public reaction to the "black shirt" movement which resulted in its collapse; the organization of negro Boy Scouts in a number of cities; the improvement here and there of educational facilities for negroes, and the co-operation of the state association of sheriffs and peace officers in the prevention of mob activities.

A depressing picture of the effect of present economic conditions upon rural and city negroes was painted by Rev. D. H. Stanton and Professor Forrester Washington. It was contended that many negroes formerly self-supporting are now out of employment, resulting in marked deterioration in health and increased dependence and delinquency. The great advantage of stabilized employment in the city and of farm ownership in the country was pointed out by these speakers.

"The community must care for its negro members either as self-supporting wage-earners or else in corrective and benevolent institutions," Professor Washington said. "Every advantage, of course, lies on the side of the former policy."

Child Welfare Conference.

The afternoon session of the commission was given over to consideration of the effects of the recent White House child welfare conference in its relation to children of both races, and interesting reports were made by Miss Rhoda Kauffman and others. The sessions were presided over by Dr. Comer Woodward, of Emory University, chairman of the commission; and was attended by a hundred or more men and women from over the state.

The forenoon session of the commission was opened with the invocation of Rev. Dr. L. R. Christie, pastor, Ponce de Leon Baptist church, following which a digest of the minutes of the last annual meeting was read by the secretary. Dr. Woodward announced the various committees.

Among the principal speakers were Professor Washington, director of the Atlanta School of Social Work; Rev. Stanton, promoter of negro boys' clubs in rural communities; John B. Guerry, of Montezuma, and the wife of Dr. H. R. Butler, well-known colored Atlanta physician, who is president of the Negro National Parent-Teachers' Association

VerNooy, Athens, and Miss Elizabeth Head, Athens.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
Wednesday, January 14, 1931

Governor Richards Denounces Lynching, Slot Machines In Annual Message To Solons

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 14—(AP)—Governor John G. Richards denounced lynching, attacked slot machines, praised prohibition and deplored lawlessness today in his final message to a South Carolina General Assembly.

The chief executive, who retires January 20 to be succeeded by Ibra C. Blackwood, of Spartanburg, recalled two lynchings which occurred during his administration. He asked laws for additional protection of prisoners held on capital charges.

In one case, he took a sheriff sharply to task for failing to request aid for the protection of his prisoner. In the other, he commended the sheriff for his efforts to defend his prisoner but charged him with being "amiss" in that "he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety."

"I had hoped," he said, "that there would be no lynchings in South Carolina during my administration, and that the stigma and disgrace which attaches to those who engage in that barbarous and degenerating crime would never again be charged to our people.

"Order had been maintained until the past year . . . when there were two lynchings added to the state's already shameful record. Both could have been prevented.

"In Oconee county, the sheriff was wounded in defending his prisoner and is to be commended for his bravery, but he was amiss in that he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety.

"The Union county lynching is another story. In this case the sheriff cannot escape his responsibility. He did not appeal to, nor notify the governor his prisoner was in danger. There is evidence that the sheriff was present when the lynching took place, and although it was bright daylight, and the lynchers were not disguised, he testified at the coroner's inquest he did not know any of them."

He asked that a law be passed "requiring sheriffs in all capital cases to report the matter to the governor as soon as possible and in case of a lynching, if it is shown that the sheriff failed to discharge his duty, that the governor be empowered to remove the sheriff from office."

Discussing prohibition, which he prai[illegible] in connection with law enforcement, the governor asserted " a spirit of lawlessness seems to have gripped not only this state but the nation.

"I have striven to uphold the law," he continued, " . . . but I have not had the sympathy and co-operation that the welfare of this state so greatly needs and deserves."

Referring to the slot machine, against which he has waged relentless war since taking office, the governor termed it "the most wicked gambling device ever conceived by the devil."

Quaint But Expressive Humor of a Mob.

Commercial Appeal Memphis

In a small rural schoolhouse near the town of Maryville, Missouri, a fiendish crime was committed some days ago. A 19-year-old girl teacher was foully attacked and brutally murdered. Very naturally sentiment in the section was aroused to a high pitch of anger. It would have been a righteous indignation if it had been directed towards the apprehension and lawful punishment of the guilty. Crimes of that sort demand adequate reckoning.

1-14-31

A negro was arrested and confessed to the crime. To protect the prisoner against the possibility of mob violence he was hid out in one or two strong jails nearby. But he was brought back to the little town of Maryville for arraignment. There he was taken away from the officers by a mob despite the fact that soldiers were in readiness but not under orders to furnish protection. Other mobs have acted much as the Maryville one did up to this point, but the vengeful Missourians proceeded to exhibit thenceforth a quaint and strange humor.

They dragged the negro about three miles to the schoolhouse where they took him to the different scenes connected with his crime. Then they procured a ladder and hauled the negro to the roof of the school building. The tearing away of a few shingles enabled the members of the mob to chain their victim to the rafters. Gasoline from automobiles was dashed over the roof and other parts of the building and the match was applied. It was only a short time before both the negro and the school were destroyed.

What object the mob had in burning the school is open to different constructions. Maybe they wanted to remove all evidence of the crime, but did they not also remove the warning contained in their vengeance? Easily can the destruction of the school be viewed as contemptuous of education. And this is the most expressive part of the quaint humor. Mob violence and schools are not harmonious. Mob rule is the negation of education that is based on law and order. If we are to be governed by mobs, we might as well burn down our schools.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Wednesday, January 14, 1931

Richards Hits Mob Violence In Final Message To Solons

Praises Prohibition In Message To South Carolina Legislature; Hits Failure Of Officers To Function

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 14—(AP)—Governor John G. Richards denounced lynching, attacked slot machines, praised prohibition and deplored lawlessness today in his final message to a South Carolina general assembly.

The chief executive, who retires January 20 to be succeeded by Ibra C. Blackwood, of Spartanburg, recalled two lynchings which occurred during his administration. He asked laws for additional protection of prisoners held on capital charges.

In one case, he took a sheriff sharply to task for failing to request aid for the protection of his prisoner. In the other, he commended the sheriff for his efforts to defend his prisoner but charged him with being "amiss" in that "he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety."

"In Oconee county the sheriff was wounded in defending his prisoner and is to be commended for his bravery, but he was remiss in that he did not remove his prisoner to a place of safety.

"The Union county lynching is another story. In this case the sheriff can not escape his responsibility. He did not appeal to or notify the governor his prisoner was in danger. There is evidence that the sheriff was present when the lynching took place, and although it was bright daylight, and the lynchers were not disguised, he testified at the coroner's inquest he did not know any of them."

Discussing prohibition which he praised, in connection with law enforcement, the governor asserted "a spirit of lawlessness seems to have gripped not only this state but the nation.

"I have striven to uphold the law," he continued, "But I have not had the sympathy and cooperation that the welfare of this state so greatly needs and deserves."

Referring to the slot machine, against which he has waged relentless war since taking office, the governor termed it "the most wicked gambling device ever conceived by the devil."

CLARKSDALE WOMEN WAR ON LYNCHINGS

Commercial Appeal

Society Is Organized by Atlanta Worker.

1-21-31

Memphis, Tenn

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 20.—A Mississippi Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching was formed in Clarksdale this morning when a group of women met at the call of Mrs. Ernest ore, county chairman, and resolutions were passed deploring past lynchings and pledging the efforts of the women to prevent them in the future.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of woman's work of the commission of Interracial Co-operation of Atlanta, addressed the meeting. She declared that in the last eight years there had been 219 lynchings. She declared of this number only 47 were for alleged crimes against white women, and since lynching was carried on in the name of southern womanhood that it was most fitting that the women of the south band together to prevent the same.

The resolution, which was adopted, follow:

"In the light of lynching statistics for 1930, Mississippi is again recorded as one of the southern states in which the crime was committed. We deplore this record, but we are encouraged in that that through the action of patriotic officers the number of lynchings prevented has exceeded those committee in this same period.

"We realize that any movement for the prevention of lynching must include all the southern states, and we therefore respond to the call of a group of women in Georgia, who are urging that the women of the south join with them in forming an association for the prevention of lynching. We adopt in general the program, which they have suggested.

"In so doing we pledge ourselves to do all within our power to eradicate the crime of lynching from our borders by creating public opinion, educate the youth in law and order processes, by upholding our public officers in their efforts to enforce the law and by calling upon the press, pulpit and school and upon every patriotic citizen to join in a campaign against this violation of law and order.

"We believe in upholding the majesty and dignity of the law with special reference to speedy conviction and punishment of crime. We deplore and condemn lynching as a crime, which brutalizes our people, mocks our Christianity and undermines our government. We hold that for every crime committed there is a commensurate punishment fixed by laws and we appeal to our officers to uphold the law at any cost. We believe that prompt execution of justice in all crimes will do much to build need respect for laws."

Those pledging themselves to the association were: Mesdames Ernest Moore, Robert Ralston, W. A. Weathers, H. L. Talbert, J. O. Baugh, Edd Graves, Edna Harden, Fletcher Gilliland, H. D. Corley, Sam Caffey, T. G. Hughes and G. W. Butler.

Lynchings-1931
6
Discussions

White Press, (Southern.)

3322

Precepts of Christ Urged As Economic Ills Cure

Methodist Missionary Council Decries Increase of Lychings in South Negro Is Heard.

Constitution
2-27-31

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—(AP)—The law of Christ—"Love thy neighbor as thyself"—was urged as a cure for economic ills in a special report on home missions unanimously adopted by the general missionary council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at the closing sessions of the annual council meeting late today. The council will meet next in Oklahoma City, Okla., on dates to be fixed.

Atlanta Ga

The special report called for activity in behalf of "needy and distressed people out of employment or suffering the consequences of insufficient income," who were described as wanting "not charity but a chance."

"It is tragic that in the midst of such plenteous stores of provisions, our means of distribution are selfish and inadequate that even in the most Christian lands millions willing to work face starvation or become the recipients of charity's dole," the report said.

The council called attention to the growing need for additional mission work in the rapidly developing industrial centers of the south and issued an appeal to the clergy throughout the denomination to join in combating lynching and the mob evil.

The large increase in lynchings in the south last year was decried and mob violence termed "a blot on our national life, than which there is no greater obstacle to the effective ministry of the gospel at home and abroad."

Leaders in the council took the position that ministers might use their influence in combatting lynchings in the same manner that it was brought to bear in the fight for national prohibition.

Discussion of mob violence took place in an open forum on ways and means for improving inter-racial relations at home and abroad, but particularly between the white and negro populations of the south.

Dr. W. Y. Bell, negro, professor of Gammon Theological Institute, Atlanta, told the council that his race did not want "patronizing paternalism" but rather the chance to develop racial pride "tempered by Christian virtues."

He sounded a warning that "the communists have already made gestures toward my people to make a common cause in the United States," and urged the benefits of Christian education for the negro as a means for combatting such overtures.

Yesterday, the council went on record as believing continuation of a militant mission program here and abroad necessary "because of the spread of communistic and atheistic propaganda."

In the foreign mission division today, the council voted to center attention upon recently organized national churches in Brazil, Mexico and Korea, with continued activity in the other fields still classed as extension branches. Reports on work throughout the world were heard at the two-day session which closed tonight.

HONOR TO ALABAMA.

The governor and people of Alabama deserve the praise of the whole country for the manner in which they have handled the perpetrators of the repulsive outrages upon a couple of white girls by a band of negro tramps on a freight train near Scottsboro several weeks ago.

Constitution

Not in many years has so dastardly and inflaming a wholesale crime been committed in the south. The provocation to a horrified and maddened community to take summary and deadly vengeance upon the guilty brutes was fairly irresistible, but the cool courage of the local sheriff and his influence over his fellow citizens led to the peaceable arrest and imprisonment of the doers of the multiple outrages. The culprits were removed to a secure prison and a military guard prudently furnished for the court trials. Convictions have promptly followed and sentences to the electric chair already passed upon eight of the criminals.

4-11-31

Atlanta Ga

This case is a full demonstration that the aid of mobs is nowhere and at no time needed for the prompt and complete execution of law and justice. It is a vindication of the sovereignty of the state, of the power to enforce the laws and secure justice to the people. As such it should have wholesome effects in Alabama and elsewhere over the country.

Mob action and lynching are reversions to barbarism wholly unnecessary and unjustifiable in our day and state of civilization. Justice of the most plenary character is put by the state in the hands of the people, and can be executed in orderly and civilized forms. The savagery of a lynching mob is no less criminal and repulsive than any of the crimes it undertakes to lawlessly avenge. Lynching must be made obsolete in our civilization.

ATLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION

APR 1 1 1931

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Gazette
LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

FEB 2 1 1931

INTERRACIAL BOARD DIRECTOR SPEAKS

Mrs. Ames Would Have Sentiment Against Lynching Aroused.

Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, director of women's work for the Southern Commission on Interracial Co-operation, spoke during the timely topics hour yesterday morning at the Woman's City Club. Club members and many other women of Little Rock who are interested in social problems made up her audience.

Mrs. Ames proposed that a permanent committee of five be appointed in Arkansas to arouse public sentiment against lynching, by means of direct contact with all state-wide organizations of women. She did not recommend a new organization because each women's organization in the state now has a committee concerned with law enforcement.

She expressed belief that control of mob violence is the most important work to be done in the South this year. Legislation never will eradicate lynching unless it is preceded by a thorough educational campaign, Mrs. Ames said. All states have laws which could control violence if public opinion was overwhelmingly in their favor, she said.

"This is predominantly a woman's problem, as women have almost exclusive influence over the young for the first 14 or 15 years of their lives," the speaker said. "Respect for law and order should be instilled then. Men cannot crystalize public opinion on law observance. They are not so highly organized in a social way and often are tied up with their business."

Mrs. Ames said that since the Southern states are homogeneous, with similar political governments and sources of income, they should solve their social problems together. As long as uprisings of any kind occur in the South Arkansas is not safe, she said. Southern women should look to courts and other forces of the law for protection, she said, rather than to enraged mobs. She pointed out that lynching was not primarily a racial problem; since 21 white persons, two of them women, were victims of mobs in the past eight years.

The hour closed with an informal discussion of the subject, led by Miss Earle Chambers.

Resolution Adopted.

A resolution was adopted, expressing the belief that failure of courts and officers of the law to deal adequately with crime has produced a growth of lawlessness, of which they said, lynching is one of the manifestations, and urging that the Arkansas Bar Association take the initiative in revising the criminal code so as to abolish delays in criminal trials on account of technicalities.

The resolution endorsed the movement of women in the Southern states to prevent lynching by educating the public to demand that the orderly processes of law be substituted for mob violence. The resolution authorized the chairman to appoint a permanent committee of five members to contact members of the Bar Association regarding revision of the criminal code, and requested that the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs, the Arkansas Congress of Parents and Teachers and other organizations co-operate in carrying out the purposes of the newly organized association. The resolution was signed by the following women:

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Mrs. John P. Streepey, Mrs. Raymond G. Gessell, Mrs. C. E. Witt, Mrs. J. S. Luton, Mrs. J. H. Riggin, Mrs. A. H. Hammann, Mrs Frank F. Fuller, Miss Lurline Moody, Mrs. Carl Erickson, Mrs. Laura P. Eshe, Mrs. E. Ellenbogen, Mrs. Clio Harper, Mrs. D. D. Tucker Sr., Mrs. H. C. Gibson, Mrs. T. J. Newman, Mrs. David D. Terry, Miss Earle Chambers, Mrs. Lillian McDermott, Mrs. B. J. Reaves, Mrs. Curtis Stout, Mrs. Percy R. Smith, Mrs. William McCombs, Miss Lula B. Chase, Mrs. W. I. Moody, Mrs. J. R. McAllister, Mrs. J. K. Smith, Miss Blanche Martin, Mrs. E. A. Serblom, Mrs. Sam W. Taylor, Miss Pearle Davis and Miss Alma L. Keyes.

NASHVILLE, TENN., BANNER
Thursday, February 26, 1931

MINISTERS DECRY LYNCHING IN SOUTH

Dr. J. W. Perry, of Nashville, Speaks Before Missionary Council.

55

New Orleans, Feb. 26—(AP)—Methodist ministers of the South, credited with a share in the work of bringing about national prohibition, were urged Thursday to use their influence similarly in stamping out lynching and mob violence below the Mason-Dixon Line.

The appeal was made at the annual sessions of the general missionary council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at an open forum on what the church and clergy might do "to control the lynching and mob evil."

The forum was conducted by Bishop W. F. McMurry, Fayette, Mo.

Dr. J. W. Perry, Nashville, home mission secretary for the denomination, decried the increase in lynchings in the South from ten in 1929 to 21 in 1930, but declared that "ministers of all faiths had a large part in the prevention of forty other threatened mob murders last year."

L. D. Patterson, Talladega, Ala., who credited the Methodist ministry with a leading role in bringing about national prohibition, said "the same sort of activity, through constant voicing of sentiment, writing for your local papers and using your influence in the community can do away with the rule of the mob."

"In every community, there are two or three white men who can veto any intended mob violence," he declared. "It is the duty of the ministry to keep in touch with these men so that their influence might be used in the right direction when the emergency arises."

He said that a prayer, offered in an Alabama court room as a mob milled about the corridors at the trial of a Negro charged with a criminal attack, had averted violence.

The Methodist council held its forum on inter-racial relations after hearing an address by Dr. W. Y. Bell, Negro, professor of Gammon Theological Institute, Atlanta, who made an appeal for abandonment of "patronizing paternalism in the South," and the substitution of "encouragement of racial pride tempered by Christian virtues."

In urging a more sympathetic relation between the races, Dr. Bell warned his hearers that "the Communists have already made gestures toward my people, urging them to make a common cause in the United States."

"Except their education be Christian education," he said, "I shudder to think of the future of my people in this country."

"The most immediate thing to be done for the Negro is to give him a chance to improve his economic situation, and to give him a place in the new industrial order of the South."

GOLDSBORO, N. C.
NEWS ARGUS

APR 8 - 1931

AN ABLE DECISION

A Negro man was lynched near Vicksburg, Mississippi, on Sunday for an alleged assault upon a white woman. The body was found hanging on a fence. Bullet holes in his head and in his body indicated how he happened to die. Shortly before a posse estimated of about fifty men had gone in search of the mob victim. What would have been a sordid affair in every detail is partially relieved by the able investigation of the coroner and the verdict of the coroner's jury after the rather brief hearing. The Negro died, this jury declared, "by violence at the hands of unknown parties." Thus the case is closed. Why our system of laws requires such thoroughly unimportant and needless investigations we cannot say. It is not unreasonable to believe that some of the men who went in search of the man served on the jury. The method of picking the jury and the types of investigations made are two of the reasons why there is less need for this officer.

If a coroner is active, if he is efficient, his service to his county is great. The average coroner is poorly paid, is incapable of performing the duties his office demands. Unless the office can be made important enough to assure investigations of a thorough nature, it is better that it be discontinued entirely. Whenever there is an account of a coroner's investigation, one immediately thinks of Wilmington's classic "tragedy of errors."—Rocky Mount Evening Telegram.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURIER JOURNAL

FEB 27 1931

WOMEN'S GROUP HITS LYNCHINGS

Meeting Adopts Resolution Condemning Acts of Mob Violence.

Seventy-five Kentucky women, representing nine religious denominations, seven educational institutions and twenty-one social and civic organizations, took a stand against lynching, Thursday afternoon, at a meeting held at the Y. W. C. A.

The group adopted a resolution condemning mob violence as a crime, and urging that "in the event of a lynching, the participants be brought to speedy trial and justice through the law."

12 Meetings Called.

The meeting was called by Mrs. Attwood R. Martin, Miss Nannie Hite Winston, Miss Alma Schmitt, Mrs. Helm Bruce and Miss Maud Harrison. Similar meetings have been called by women of twelve other Southern States.

In its resolution, the group mentioned the fact that out of the twenty-one lynchings in the United States in 1930, nineteen were in the South.

"Although none was in Kentucky," said the resolution, "Kentucky carries criminal responsibility in the eyes of the world for four lynchings in the State since 1924, and we are not free from danger of a recurrence of the crime within the State's borders in the future."

The resolution pointed out that when mob violence occurs in the South, the South as a whole "shares the disgrace, not only of breach of faith and betrayal of immediate trust, but also through betrayal of our ancient overseas heritage, for lynching is peculiarly an American crime."

"As Southern women," the statement continued, "we deplore and condemn mob violence as a crime and as an indictment of our civilization." The group repudiated the claim that lynching is in defense of the white women of the South, and stated that "the mob spirit is a greater menace than any other form of crime in the United States, since it brutalizes the community, discredits American institutions and confesses a breakdown in government."

Officers Commended.

"As citizens seeking to uphold the institutions of Kentucky," the resolution stated, "we call upon our officers of the law, the Governor, the Judges and Sheriffs of our 120 counties, at all times to perform their duties in safeguarding prisoners in their custody from mob violence. We commend these guardians of law and order for the fact that no lynching occurred in Kentucky during 1930. We urge that in the event of a lynching, the participants be brought to speedy trial and justice."

The group also recommended that Kentucky women join women of the other Southern States in forming an "association of Southern white women to prevent lynching."

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, a leader in the movement since its beginning, outlined its progress among women in the other States of the South.

Mrs. Martin presided at the session. The committee which called the meeting was asked to appoint twelve women from various parts of Kentucky, to work on a State-wide programme.

BRISTOL, TENN., HER.-COUR.
Sunday, February 1, 1931

Officers And Lynchers.

Judge Lynch has been holding court again, this time up in North Dakota. At the town of Schafer in that State a mob has presumed to mete out justice to Charles Bannon, a young white man who was accused of the murder of a farmer and his wife and their four children and was said to have confessed the crime.

Since his arrest Bannon had been held in jail in another community for safekeeping but was brought back to Schafer for trial. About midnight of the day before he was to be arraigned a mob went to the jail, overpowered the Sheriff and a deputy, seized the prisoner and took him out of town to a bridge and hanged him.

Perhaps it is not worth while to observe that Bannon, if guilty, committed a diabolical crime, or to suggest that had the law been permitted to take its course he would have been put to death by the State. These things have been said many times by many law-respecting people, but the lynching mob continues to operate.

There was a mob murder in Missouri recently which could have been prevented. A company of State troops was on hand to prevent it, but the troops could act only at the request of the local authorities, and the Sheriff did not call upon them when a mob appeared and took his prisoner from him because, he explained, he feared there would be bloodshed.

The victim of the North Dakota lynching had been removed from Schafer and held in another community because, presumably, the local authorities realized that there was danger of mob lawlessness. But it does not appear that any precautions were taken for the prisoner's protection when he was returned to Schafer for trial. The mob seems to have met with very little resistance.

A bill has been introduced in the Tennessee Legislature providing for the mandatory removal of officers from whom prisoners are taken by mobs. This measure, which recognizes a chief contributing cause of mob murders, should be passed. It is the sworn duty of officers of the law to protect their prisoners, and when officers generally determine to perform this duty there will be fewer lynchings. Those who fail to perform it should be promptly removed.

HOUSTON, TEX.
PRESS

APR 20 1931

One Woman and a Mob

A COURAGEOUS woman Saturday saved one negro from a mob in Tennessee, while in a nearby town another negro was taken from the jail and hanged in the courthouse yard.

The sheriff's wife, who saved the negro, saved justice.

While we wish there were more like her, neither Tennessee nor any other state should have to depend upon lone women to avert the stigma of mob violence.

There should be a federal statute outlawing lynching, and federal enforcement.

The republican party's platform of 1928 said:

"We renew our recommendation that the congress enact at the earliest possible date a federal anti-lynching law so that the full influence of the federal government may be wielded to exterminate this hideous crime."

In an official document issued recently by the republican national committee, the party's platform pledges are listed in one column and in a parallel column is told what has been done to fulfill each of them. Beside the anti-lynching plank is a blank space.

Yet, President Hoover said: "Platform pledges must not be empty gestures."

This should be remembered by the republican spokesmen now barnstorming the South.

Meanwhile, what do the democrats propose to do about the national disgrace of lynching?

Lynchings – 1931
Discussions.

White Press, (Southern.)

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

JAN 30 1931

Bills to Prevent Lynching.

Editor The News:

You have noticed, doubtless, some account of bills introduced into the general assembly in an effort to do a little more to prevent lynchings in Tennessee.

Unfortunately, though quite naturally, the brief news stories may leave the impression that the purpose is to make the job of a sheriff (or other officer) much more difficult. The truth is, however, that the purpose of this bill and its affect, if enacted, is to place in the hands of loyal and faithful officers a moral weapon which they do not now have and so make it easier for them to restrain a mob by moral force rather than physical force.

It often happens that a prisoner sought by a mob is either wholly unknown or known as a member of the lowest class of the community and a social menace. In such cases a mere appeal to an abstraction, "the majesty of the law," is not very effective. However, most mobs contain persons who are the personal or political friends of the officer in charge of the prisoner. If a sheriff can say, "If you violate the law you injure me as well as this unknown or worthless prisoner," he will have a new moral force at his command which, some believe, will be very effective.

Of course, if there are faithless sheriffs anywhere they ought to be suspended at once. The purpose back of this bill, however, is to give added help to those faithful sheriffs who sincerely want to do their duty and who need and should have all possible moral support. If a sheriff makes to a mob the kind of an appeal that he will be enabled to make under this amendment to the law, it appears that testimony to this effect would be rather strong proof that he had not been wilfully negligent, and the ultimate reprobation would fall on the mob rather than on the sheriff.

The passage of the bill will again put Tennessee in the forefront of the effort to suppress lynchings, for no other state has a law like this, though I happen to know that similar laws are being considered elsewhere.

JAMES E. CLARKE,
President, Tennessee Interracial Commission.
Nashville, January 27.

GOLDSBORO, N. C.
NEWS ARGUS

FEB 5 - 1931

MOST LYNCHINGS PREVENTABLE

About the same time that Senator Lawrence of Hertford was introducing his bill at Raleigh requiring officers to incarcerate prisoners charged with capital crimes in the State prison or in the jail of a county other than that in which the crime was committed, Governor John G. Richards, of South Carolina, in his final message to the lawmakers of that State, was discussing the lynching problem in very plain words.

There were two lynchings in South Carolina last year. Governor Richards declares that both of these lynchings could have been prevented if the governor had been notified promptly by the sheriffs of the danger. One of the sheriffs acted bravely in resisting the mob. The other sheriff is bitterly condemned by the governor, who recommends that the chief executive should have power to remove a sheriff from office when it is shown that he acted as this sheriff did.

Most lynchings can be presented where the officers of the law want to prevent them; and it is, of course, preposterous that often the governor is without power to hold a sheriff to account for gross failure to uphold a law the violation of which brings shame upon the commonwealth and its people.—Asheville Citizen.

A SHINING EXAMPLE.

The people of Campbell county have set a shining example of respect for law when on Friday, faced by the unprovoked murder of an able and conscientious official, they kept a firm check on passion, and aided instead of obstructing in the landing of the accused assassin behind prison bars.

Constitution
4-5-31

Time and again throughout the country, there have resulted quick lynchings following crimes less aggravated than that committed at Fairbu[illegible]

Atlanta Ga.

Sheriff Camp was an able and fearless officer. His ability and popularity had made him one of the best known peace officers of the state. He was shot down in cold blood while in the course of duty.

It is to the credit of the people of Campbell county that the posse of citizens assisting in the search for the murderer, promptly squelched the first hint of violence.

Quick and sure justice will be meted out by the courts, and full penalty will be paid by the culprit who took the life of a brave officer.

Lynching is a relic of barbarism, and an indictment against the community in which it takes place.

The orderly arrest and jailing of the accused murderer of Sheriff Camp is an example that should be followed throughout the country, and too much praise cannot be said of the good people of Campbell county for the orderly manner of their procedure under intense provocation.

NEW YORK ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS LYNCHING

Gastonia

ALBANY, N. Y., April 6.—(AP)—The New York state senate tonight concurred with the assembly in the adoption of an anti-lynching resolution introduced by Assemblyman Robert K. Story, Jr., Brooklyn, democrat. The resolution memorialized congress to enact with all convenient speed" such regulatory measures as will put an end to lynching.

4-7-31
Atlanta Ga.

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
Tuesday, April 7. 1931

Mob Violence Noted By Reds

Communists Keep Close Tab On Every Lynching Of Negro In South Miss Cox Tells Welfare Workers.

GOLDSBORO, April 7— (AP)—Every outbreak of mob violence and every lynching is carefully noted by Communists and used in their propaganda among negroes, Miss Clara Cox of High Point declared in an address prepared for delivery before the public welfare department of women's clubs here today.

The division of women's clubs is meeting in connection with the 19th annual convention of the North Carolina conference for social service.

Miss Cox discussed some reasons why Southern white women are beginning to protest against lynchings and detailed organized efforts among white women to prevent mob violence.

"A primary excuse for lynching," she said, "is that it is necessary for the protection of southern white women. This makes it doubly essential that the group supposed to be protected in this manner should seek to reveal the fundamental fallacy of this excuse. Of the 21 lynchings last year, eight were for rape and two for attempted rape. Realizing the hideousness of this terrible crime, we are, neverthless, convinced that lynching is not so apt to act as a deterrent as the swift and orderly prosesses of law.

"In this connection there should be mentioned instances that come to light revealing the fact that some of the crimes against women are committed by white men disguised as negroes.

"It is quite probable that one or more of the negroes lynched last year were innocent victims of a frameup."

Miss Cox mentioned the following which she cited as "instances:"

"Battling a black assailant in her home in Norfolk, Va., in November 1929, a woman tore open his shirt and discovered that he was white. His face was blackened and his hands were covered with rubber gloves.

"A girl in Louisville, Ky., after beating off an attacker whom she thought a negro discovered that her face and hands were covered with smoot which had rubbed off on her during the struggle.

"In August 1930 a North Carolina daily carried the headline "three negroes kidnap white girl' based on the unsupported story of a youth who represented himself as the girl's escort at the time. A manhunt began at once and excitement ran high. Before the day was over, however, officers were beginning to believe that the whole story was faked by the youth who told it, perhaps for the purpose of concealing some misdeeds of his own. Within 24 hours, nobody believed a word of it. Had his story been a bit more plausible, the consequences might have been tragic."

A WRONG SUGGESTION.

The neighborly Chattanooga Times, commenting upon an editorial in these columns on this state's loss of negro population during the past decade, suggests that the negroes may be leaving to escape the peril of lynching. That is a favorite idea with certain negro agitators in the east and north, but it does not hold substance in either sentiment or fact.

Constitution
1-29-31
Atlanta Ga.

The census shows that negroes have been migrating from states in the south that have had no lynchings and have gone thence into states that have had them. The fact recalls the case of an old Atlanta negro of many years ago who concluded that negroes were not safe from lynching in Georgia and that he would move to Kansas, then regarded as an Eden for negroes. In a few weeks, however, he was back in Atlanta with this explanation:

"I went ter Kansas an' set down in Leavenworth, but, 'fore de Lawd, in lessen a week dey tuck a nigger out er jail an' hung him right in de main street; so I decided dat ef Ize gwine ter be lynched at all, I'd rudder my home fokes 'ud do it dan strangers; so here I iz ergin!"

The known fact is that the negroes who left Georgia were seeking for surer and more profitable work in the industrial centers, and upon railway maintainance and construction work in the north and west. The revised immigration act that shut out the laborers from Europe came contemporaneously with the boll weevil invasion of southern farms. That made it easy and hopeful for the discouraged negro farmer in Georgia and neighbor states to welcome the railway agents from the north and west offering them free transportation and permanent railroad work.

And that is why so many negroes left Georgia.

NO MULES AROUND BIG SANDY

Advocate
4-19-31
Montgomery, Ala.

Jackson county is chagrined at the publicity which it has received because of the sensational trials recently held at its county courthouse in Scottsboro. Nine men, not residents of Jackson, were tried for a capital offense against two persons who themselves were not residents of the county. Jackson had to bear the heavy cost of the trial and had to endure an unpleasant place in the spotlight for some days. But if Jackson continues to laugh off its troubles they should not weigh heavily upon it. Thus The Scottsboro Sentinel sets the pace for others: "Photographs of Scottsboro and its 'trial crowds' of last week are being published all over the country by the news agencies and so far we haven't seen a man on a mule with a rifle in his hand in any of them. And the flowery reporters forgot to add one bit of trimmings, they should have said, 'tall mountaineers, astride tall mules, holding long rifles and with long PLOW LINES coiled and ready for instant plow lines coiled and ready for instant use!" Gosh, what a picture that would have been. Lionel Durham of Big Sandy wrote a hot letter to the daily papers in behalf of the 'mountaineers' but that didn't stop the publicity. Lionel told me very few people on Big Sandy ever used or saw a mule at all—that they made their crops with electrically controlled tractors operated by radio from the front porches of the farm houses while listening to Einstein lectures from Germany and grand opera from Paris over the same machine. He said the last mule he saw was with Haag's Mighty Circus several years ago when people paid 50 cents each to see the strange beast. As for rifles, he said folks out there didn't need any shooting irons, because when they got mad they just 'threw their voices' wherever they wanted it and burned down the enemy with red hot language. Now, whaddye think o' that!"

DALLAS, TEX.
NEWS

FEB 24 1931

Antilynching Group Formed Among Women

Committee Says Crime Offers No Safety Against Crime.

Tenth State Body

Other Southern Bodies to Unite in Fight for Prevention.

A group of fourteen Texas women met around a conference table Monday in the Baker Hotel. From seven others who had found it impossible to attend were letters and telegrams assuring the group of whole-hearted and sympathetic support. Before the meeting adjourned and the women went out into the various activities which ordinarily engage them they had expressed themselves of a unanimous sentiment in regard to lynching. They declared, in effect, that they abhor lynching for the crime that it is, and that no longer will they, as white Southern women, condone it as a protection for themselves.

Texas thus became the tenth Southern State in which similar groups of women have taken steps toward organization of State committees for the prevention of lynching. The other States are Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. On Thursday the women of Kentucky, at a meeting in Louisville, are expected to take similar action. Ultimately all thirteen Southern States will have such groups. In November, in Atlanta there will be a South-wide meeting.

"Destructive of Law."

The movement brought to Texas Monday started last November in Atlanta when Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames formerly of Georgetown, Texas, now director of women's work for the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, called a meeting of Southern women to see what could be done by the women to stop lynching. Mrs Ames had charge of Monday's meeting in Dallas, and will leave Tuesday morning for the Louisville meeting.

"Recourse to crime to prevent crime is destructive of law and is anarchistic in effect," the Texas women declared Monday. "Lynching is a crime itself, and as such we condemn and abhor it. We reaffirm that it is not a protection to women nor do we look to mobs for safety.

"If citizens are unable to protect society and womanhood through legal means, then they must confess that they are incapable of civilization. A community which resorts to mob law proclaims to the world a citizenship too irresponsible and unstable emotionally to be intrusted with democratic principles of self-government.

Grateful to Governor.

"The women of Texas are grateful to Gov. Ross Sterling for his support of a program of no lynchings in Texas this year. Lynchings can be prevented. When the Government declares that lynchers are murderers and will be and are punished as such, lynchings will pass."

Mrs. Ames, interpreting the movement throughout the South, declared that this action on the part of women is probably the most significant step taken toward eradication of lynching because women have been used, she said, as a cloak for this crime; and because women, largely, have charge of children during their formative years.

"We feel it necessary to educate the public opinion first," she said. "After that legislation may come; but really we have enough legislation already—against murder, for lynching is murder, and against mobs—if only it will be enforced. Heretofore women have been afraid to take their stand. But women, who have been effective as a bloc in prohibition, against war, in industrial conditions, can now do the same against lynching."

Present at Monday's meeting were Mrs. Ames, Mrs. J. L. Brock, Bryan; Mrs. F. P. Culver, Fort Worth; Mrs. B. A. Hodges, Waxahachie; Mrs. F. M. Burkhead, Houston; Mrs. Alex W. Spence, Mrs. A. C. Cason, Mrs. S. S. Burris, Mrs. L. W. Preston, Mrs. Carl L. Voss, Mrs. Alice McLarty, Mrs. Sam Black, Mrs. John Hanna, all of Dallas, and Mrs. J. J. Johnson, Sulphur Springs.

Those of the committee who could not attend are Mrs. C. S. Potts, Mrs. Ben Thorp and Mrs. John Turner of Dallas, Mrs. Cone Johnson, Tyler, Mrs. Florence Graham, Port Arthur, Mrs. Eva Poole, San Marcos; Miss Mary Deckerd, Austin, and Miss Virginia Kelly, Longview.

WINSTON SALEM, N. C
SENTINEL

FEB 20 1931

COLORED CLERGYMEN ASK ANTI-LYNCH LAW

The Interdenominational Ministers Union of Winston-Salem, composed of colored clergymen, has issued a letter to all senators and representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly asking their support of the pending anti-lynching bill.

The communications were signed by Revs. H. D. Denson, president; S. Alexander Bass, secretary; Edward Gholson, J. C. White and H. S. Roberts, committeemen.

The clergymen offered their thanks to the legislators for the consideration the bill has received and for the policy of the North Carolina General Assembly in "initiating reforms for the security and happiness of all its citizens."

EDUCATORS TO STUDY LYNCHING PROBLEMS

Constitution

A thorough study of the legal aspects of lynching, later to be made public, has been undertaken by a commission composed of the deans of 17 leading law schools in the south, according to an announcement from the headquarters of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation here. Dean Charles T. McCormick, of the North Carolina University school of law, has accepted chairmanship of the commission, and J. H. Chadbourn, a graduate of that school, will do the field work and collect the necessary data.

4-23-31

Assisting Dean McCormick in digesting this material and formulating conclusions will be Deans A. J. Farrah, of the University of Alabama; J. S. Waterman, University of Arkansas; H. R. Trusler, University of Florida; H. N. Edmunds, University of Georgia; C. J. Hilkey, Emory University; J. A. McClain, Mercer University; A. E. Evans, University of Kentucky; R. C. Harris, Tulane University; J. L. Parks, University of Missouri; J. C. Monnet, University of Oklahoma; J. N. Frierson, University of South Carolina; J. L. Plyler, Furman University; I. P. Hildebrand, University of Texas; C. S. Potts, Southern Methodist University; William Minor Lile, University of Virginia, and W. H. Moreland, Washington and Lee University.

The announced purpose of the study, which will go thoroughly into all the legal and judicial aspects of lynching, will be "to discover how to make more effective use of existing legal agencies and procedure, and to determine what additional legislation or legal machinery may be needed in the various states to deal more effectively with the problem."

The commission of deans was asked to make this study as an important technical contribution to the work of the southern commission for the study of lynching, an association of 11 prominent southern men headed by George Fort Milton, editor of the Chattanooga News, which is now engaged in a thorough study of the 21 lynchings of 1930. Both studies are sponsored by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, a southern organization seeking fuller justice and opportunity for the negroes of the south.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

APR 21 1931

A FIERCE LIGHT ON ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION

Last year's relapse into mob violence, which resulted in 21 lynchings—more than for some years previously—has continued thus far into 1931.

The condition spread into South Dakota, which in January suffered its first mob murder for 17 years; and also into comparatively lynching-free Missouri—while breaking out afresh in Mississippi and other long-plagued territory.

Tennessee—absent from last year's infamous roll—has experienced the latest such outrage. A "great crowd" broke in the jail door at Union City, seized George Smith—an 18-year-old negro, charged with an attempted attack on a young woman—and hanged him to a tree in the courthouse yard.

That act—though less flagrant than the Sherman (Texas) outrage—strikingly reflected the mob's open flouting of law and order. A dispatch states that the victim "had not been identified definitely as the attacker." He was being held on "bloodhound evidence," which Judge Lynch always did accept as infallible proof.

Sheriff Hubbs and his deputies apparently attempted no show of resistance. "We didn't want to take the negro's place!" one deputy pleaded, and another officer ventured the safe prediction that none of the lynchers would be arrested.

An incident at Huntingdon (Tennessee) earlier the same day might be called to the Union City officers' attention: A mob that moved upon the jail seeking a prisoner who had been transferred there for safekeeping, was met by Mrs. J. C. Butler, the Sheriff's wife. "You can't run anything like that over me," she told the leaders—adding that the Sheriff was not home and she did not have the keys. Mrs. Butler was unarmed—but the would-be lynchers, abashed, turned and dispersed. They had followed the negro, who had shot down an officer in an attempted robbery, there from another county.

Certainly Mrs. Butler should receive from the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, in Atlanta, its gold medal bestowed for extraordinary courage in resisting mob violence.

The contrasting events at Union City and Huntingdon call attention to a bill pending before the Tennessee Legislature—providing for the "automatic suspension of any officer from whose custody a prisoner is taken by a lynching mob." To avoid permanent ouster, the official must defend himself successfully against a "wilful neglect of duty" charge.

Had such a statute been in effect, it might have prevented the Union City outrage. Advocates argue that the measure would "enlist the sheriff's friends on the side of law and order and thus greatly strengthen his hand."

Southern legislative bodies generally have fought shy of specific anti-lynching proposals. It is true that an aroused civic conscience, rather than law, mainly must be depended upon to eradicate the evil; but the Tennessee measure would be worth trying. At any rate, some sheriffs there have shown themselves resourceful and courageous in fighting off mobs.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

3324

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

SEP 18 1931

LYNCHING A CRIME

Some people—not very many—have been slow to recognize that under every circumstance lynching is an indefensible crime. This is true when the party lynched richly deserves, under our laws, electrocution, as in the case of a rapist or murderer. In ninety-nine cases out of one hundred the guilty man will be given the severest penalty of the law after an orderly trial.

But—suppose the lynched man is not guilty? It is too horrible to contemplate so heinous a crime as that. And yet it has happened, and in the past year there have been three cases where great companies of people gathered to avenge a supposed wrong upon a woman. The latest was in Jones county, where last week hundreds of men assembled to hunt the man "dressed fantastically," said to have horribly assaulted a young woman. Fortunately the company awaited identification and proof while a suspect was hurried to jail in a near-by county. Four days later the woman alleged to have been assaulted recanted her original story of the crime and said she "had gone for a walk in the woods with Jake Harrison and spent an hour and a half in a thicket"—this was the man placed in jail.

Jones county people, quick to avenge an assault upon a virtuous woman, are happy that they did not act precipitately.

Moral—Lynching is never defensible.

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RECORD
COLUMBIA, S. C.
OCT 8 1931

AN ANNIVERSARY.

In Aiken three negroes, one of them a woman, were being tried a second time for the murder of Aiken's sheriff. Their first trial had ended in verdicts of guilty—the electric chair for the two boys, Demon and Clarence Lowman, the mercy of a life sentence for the woman, Bertha. But the supreme court of South Carolina reversed this first verdict, making it clear that only one of the three defendants, the person who actually fired the shot, could be held guilty of murder; the others were guilty only of something else. And so Special Judge Samuel T. Lanham, following the supreme court's clear delineation of the law, directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty for Demon Lowman, one of the three.

The first trial, held shortly after the murder had been orderly; Aiken, it appeared,was prepared to let the law take its course. There was not even the hint of mob violence. Sheriff Henry H. Howard had been a fine officer and a popular citizen; he had believed himself in the law's enforcement. No one had any doubt of what that first verdict would be.

"An' they tried 'em," an Aiken citizen told the story to an inquiring New York reporter, "an' convicted 'em an' the two boys was sentenced to be electrocuted and the woman to life in prison an' everybody says everything's chicken."

But in that second trial one had already been acquitted; the woman might also have escaped with a lesser penalty. So five years ago today a crowd of "persons unknown" to a coroner's jury knocked at the door of Aiken's modern jail and demanded the surrender of the three negroes. Rupert Taylor, the jailor, refused the demand and telephoned, he said, for the sheriff, Nollie Robinson, who once before had turned back a mob seeking to lynch the three prisoners the day of Sheriff Howard's death. As he unlocked the door of the jail to admit the sheriff, Taylor said, the mob rushed in, overpowering the officers.

Screaming impotently into the night the three—one of them innocent by a verdict of a South Carolina court—were bundled into waiting automobiles and then just outside of the city limits in a little patch of woods they were shot to death. The place is there still on the Columbia-Aiken highway and if you know where it is you can recognize it from your passing automobile.

Of the lynchings that have been South Carolina's shame as gang killings have been New York's and mine riots Tennessee's and Colorado's, this was the most inexcusable. It was not done in sudden heat and pasion. The crime which it avenged—the killing of the sheriff in a raid on the Lowman home near Monetta in which Annie Lowman lost her life and Bertha Lowman's unborn child died—was many months past. The second trial was actually in progress and one of the three, the mob knew, was not guilty under South Carolina law, made and interpreted by white South Carolinians.

That was five years ago. Two governors and an attorney general sought to discover and arrest the members of the mob. Two grand juries investigated the slaying—after a fashion. But to no avail. Never has there been arrest made or an indictment brought. Officially the slaying remains the work of "persons unknown."

And Aiken in these five years has done nothing about it though it was and is particularly Aiken's shame. Aiken, which alone could have done something about it, has wanted to forget, but in Aiken are some who know and these can not forget.

RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES-DISPATCH
AUG 30 1929

A Lynching in Florida

FLORIDA authorities are called upon t deal with a unique case of lynching. I this instance the "usual crime" was not committed. The threadbare excuse that drast action was necessary for the protection o Southern womanhood is lacking.

Two Negroes, on their way home, we cornered by a mob of masked men and sh to death. The story does not indicate th one of the victims was guilty of any crim He had been struck by a white man at turpentine camp. His companion intervene with the result that the white man, now recovering from his injuries, was severely beaten So far as the record shows, the first Negr may have been innocent of wrong-doing; the second could have been convicted only of a minor offense.

The law already had stepped in to mete out justice in such measure as the case demanded. Officers had arrested the Negroes and placed them in jail. Upon notification of what had happened, the employer of the two men had appeared and had effected their release upon bond, pending trial. The Negroes were quietly returning to work. There was no reason to believe they were dangerous criminals. Obviously, they enjoyed the confidence of the man who hired them. Authorities had been given every assurance that they would appear for trial at the specified time.

Here then is a case of mob murder for which there is no shadow of excuse. Not only have two men been done to death, for little or nothing, but the majesty of the law—a law which already had placed in motion the machinery of justice—has been challenged in the most shocking manner possible, and a golden opportunity presented for the charge in unfriendly quarters that the South is distinguished by acts of unspeakable barbarity.

The truth, of course, is that the best citizens of this section deplore and resent every such happening as is reported from Florida. Only thugs indulge in lynching, whatever may be the occasion that gives rise to mob murder. Courts are constituted for the specific purpose of dealing with criminals. Citizens of prope sensibilities insist that every case, howeve aggravated it may be, must be handled throug the duly-constituted channels of justice. Civilization cannot stand where mobs hold sway.

From far and near the case in Florida wi be watched with interest. The authorities o that State are on trial. It is their pla duty to apprehend the men responsible fo this crime and mete out to them the punishment prescribed for murder. Only by so doin can they vindicate justice in Florida.

August 30, 1931
DALLAS TEX HERALD

LYNCHING FIGURES SHOW MARKED DECREASE IN 1931

Atlanta, Aug. 29 (INS).—Compared with the number of "mob murders" in the United States during 1930, lynchings have greatly decreased during the first half of 1931, according to a report just issued by the ~~Tuskegee institute~~, of Tuskegee, Ala.

There were twenty-one lynchings in the country last year—more than double the number in 1929, and more than in any year since 1926. Only five lynchings have been reported for the first six months in 1931.

Figures reveal that during a similar period of depression—in 1922—the score had reached thirty by the time the year was half over.

Commenting on the drop in the number of mob killings, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings, an organization perfected here recently to wage a campaign against lynch law, had this to say:

"The newspapers of the South with very few exceptions have had a leading part in bringing the number of lynchings down. They have not confined their activities to condemnation of lynchings in the abstract, but they have been tireless in support of governors, officers of the law and courageous citizens who by united action have prevented mob execution of forty-nine persons within the Southern states alone. Every effort against lynching has received whole-hearted co-operation in the editorial columns of the Southern press.

"Churches, through their ministers and particularly through their women's organizations, have helped to arouse public opinion against lynching. The sentiment against this crime can receive no greater impetus than through the support of organized religion."

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching came into being shortly after the sudden resurgence of "mob murder" in 1929. The same period saw the birth of several other agencies which were organized to conduct an offensive against mob law.

Among these was the Southern commission for the study of lynching. The commission is headed by George Fort Milton, editor of the Chattanooga (Tenn.) News. It is now engaged in the work of making a detailed study of the twenty-one lynchings in 1930.

Recently a parallel commission, composed of the deans of seventeen prominent law schools of the South, has started a study of the legal aspects of lynching. The commission is headed by Dean Charles T. McCormick, of the University of North Carolina school of law.

Its purpose is to go into all the legal and judicial aspects of lynching "to discover how to make more effective the use of existing legal agencies and procedure, and to determine what additional legislation or legal machinery may be needed in the various states to deal more effectively with the problem."

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is a South-wide organization, and now has branch organizations in virtually every Southern state. The first meeting was held in Atlanta by prominent club women from seven Southeastern states.

The various women speakers deplored the defense of lynching in the name of Southern womenhood. It was pointed out that attacks and attempted attacks on women constituted the offense of more than half of the 211 victims of lynch law from 1922 to 1930.

A short while after the Atlanta meeting, another group of women from Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas met and decided to join hands with the women of the Southestern states in starting a South-wide anti-lynching movement.

"We are profoundly convinced," said a resolution adopted at the initial meeting, "that lynching is not a defense of womanhood or of anything else, but rather a menace to private and public safety, and a deadly blow at our most sacred institutions.

"Instead of deterring irresponsible and criminal classes from further crime, it is argued, lynching tends inevitably to destroy all respect for law and order. It represents the complete breakdown of government and the triumph of anarchy.

"It brutalizes the community where it occurs, including the women and children who frequently witness its orgies, and particularly the youth who are usually conspicious participants."

Kinston, N. C. Free Press
Saturday, October 31, 1931

VETERAN OFFICIAL TELLS OF LYNCHING IN KU KLUX TIMES

Jesse T. Heath, veteran county official here, is writing memoirs, brief but packed with thrilling experiences. They will relate how a jailer was fooled by a mob in the reconstruction period, when Heath was a small boy but old enough to get a last impression of the horror of the most famous lynching in Lenoir County's history.

"There had been a number of brutal murders in the section," Mr. Heath said today in relating the incident. "I remember prisoners being brought in buggies from Greenville, where they had been kept while awaiting trial here. The Sunday afternoon of their arrival in Kinston some 30 or 4..0 men drove up to a turpentine still at the edge of town, a couple of blocks from the jail. They had in their midst a man bound with ropes.

"They conducted the man to the prison. The jailer came out to receive him. The mob, for such it proved to be, immediately released the 'prisoner,' who was a decoy, and took the jailer's keys from him. The leaders forced him to go indoors and remain there for 48 hours. Sentries were posted, who refused to let anyone leave his home that evening.

"The mob took two white men and five negroes from the jail, led them a mile to a bridge across Neuse River and put them to death. The bodies were thrown overboard. It was cold weather. The story is told that one of the white men was not finished off and was heard groaning in the icy water. He was dragged ashore and knocked in the head. I cannot vouch for the detail. Anyway, it was one of the most unique and horrible lynchings in history. It was attributed to the Ku Klux Klan. I can't say about that."

ASHEVILLE, N.C.
TIMES
NOV 1 3 1931

NO LYNCHINGS THUS FAR

(Houston-Post Dispatch)

Thus far in 1931 no person in Texas has been seized by a mob, carried helpless to the place of his death and there done away with by gun, rope or fire. For more than ten months, now, the lust within us to hear the shrieks of the victim has lain dormant. For forty-odd weeks we have held back from trampling under foot our laws, our obligations as citizens, our sentiments of humanity and our standing as representatives of a civilized, self-governing, enlightened order of society. Already we have begun boasting about it, though some are fearful that before the year is out we shall have groken out again and shall have dragged some unfortunate wretch to a terrible and savage doom.

Read that paragraph over again, if it seems to you to be unfair to Texas and Texans. Consider it as a citizen from Switzerland or England or Canada or some other law-abiding land would look upon it, in the light of the fact that heretofore in the last fifty years we have had mob murders every year except one. With that record, how can we be proud?

And yet we must begin to make a record some time. In some year, whether it be 1931 or 1981, we must break with the law of the jungle and catch up with the law of Caesar and Napoleon and the Barons of Runnymede, if indeed we still fall short of the law of the Nazarene. Ten months without the anarchy of a prisoner wrested from sworn defenders of the Constitution to die as dogs die, undefended, unpitied and unheard—ten months with the flag unsullied, justice unspat upon and liberty undefiled—can we not, for the love of God or the shame of man, make it a round twelvemonth?

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER
SEP 1 8 1931

LYNCHING A CRIME

Some people—not very many—have been slow to recognize that under every circumstance lynching is an indefensible crime. This is true when the party lynched richly deserves, under our laws, electrocution, as in the case of a rapist or murderer. In ninety-nine cases out of one hundred the guilty man will be given the severest penalty of the law after an orderly trial.

But—suppose the lynched man is not guilty? It is too horrible to contemplate so heinous a crime as that. And yet it has happened, and in the past year there have been three cases where great companies of people gathered to avenge a supposed wrong upon a woman. The latest was in Jones county, where last week hundreds of men assembled to hunt the man "dressed fantastically," said to have horribly assaulted a young woman. Fortunately the company awaited identification and proof while a suspect was hurried to jail in a near-by county. Four days later the woman alleged to have been assaulted recanted her original story of the crime and said she "had gone for a walk in the woods with Jake Harrison and spent an hour and a half in a thicket"—this was the man placed in jail.

Jones county people, quick to avenge an assault upon a virtuous woman, are happy that they did not act precipitately.

Moral—Lynching is never defensible.

AUGUSTA, GA.
HERALD
SEP 2 2 1930

Call Out the Guard!

(From The Macon News)

GEORGIA, when a Negro is accused of the crime which we newspapers primly call "a statutory offense," the governor almost invariably calls out the national guard to protect the prisoner.

In Virginia the national guard is called out to prevent cotton mill strikers from picketing.

In Oregon the national guard is called out to fight forest fires, and in Iowa to fight grasshoppers.

In Oklahoma and Texas when the price of crude oil gets too low to be profitable the governors call out the national guard and force the oil well owners to stop production until the price goes up again.

In Illinois the governor is being urged to call out the national guard and establish martial law in Madison County so that a dog race track may be closed.

In Arkansas the national guard is called out to prevent hair-pulling between rival religious factions in Jonesboro.

Join the militia and see a cock-eyed world.

A Long Record Marred.

Until last week there had not been a lynching perpetrated in the state of Maryland for more than 20 years. Good citizens of that fine state who do not hold with lynch law were almost justified in their confident belief that the mob was a thing of the past in Maryland. And then came the shameful affair at Salisbury, where a mob said to have numbered almost 2,000 took a negro who had slain his employer from a hospital, hanged him in the public square and then burned his body in the street.

When a people is just about ready to call itself civilized, something like this comes along to reveal how far from civilization the nation is.

Headway has been made against mob rule in the south during the last decade or two. Annually the records show a continual diminishing of lynch law. The latest lynching took place nearer to those states of the eastern seaboard which have been most bitterly critical of the south than to the criticised states of the deep south. But Maryland is largely southern in spirit and tradition, so that the lynching at Salisbury is likely to be set down as another dark spot on the southern record.

Of course, the great majority of Maryland citizens regret the Salisbury affair deeply. Perhaps Governor Ritchie will demand that there be action against the mob members.

It is extremely unfortunate that the long, good record of Maryland, which had not had a lynching since 1911, should have been marred.

Memphis Commercial Appeal 12/1/31

ITEM
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
SEP 12 1930

A New Posse

A LIVINGSTON Parish judge appointed a "posse" of 50 citizens to protect a negro prisoner from mob violence. The 50 are said to include a number who were inclined to lynching. Their appointment on a protective posse binds them to uphold the law on penalty of fine and imprisonment.

Appointment of such posses is a rarity. Happily, the need for them lessens as time goes on. Even so, Livingston court's action is wise and shrewd. Few responsible citizens fail to respond to the direct call upon their patriotism and soberness of character which is made by their appointment to a law-enforcing group. And only a little sobering influence often is enough to bring a mob to its senses.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

White Press, (Southern.)

3325

ABILENE, TEX.
NEWS

JAN 31 1931

Restoring Capital Punishment

North Dakota is of a good mind to restore capital punishment as a part of its legal machinery. In fact, a bill to that effect has been drawn up and will be urged before the legislature.

The incident which brought about this change of heart, at least on the part of some North Dakotans, was the lynching of a young man in that state last Thursday. The state has no capital punishment statute, having abolished the death penalty in 1915. The mob knowing that the worst that the law could do to him would be to incarcerate him for life, took matters into its own hands and quietly and expeditiously performed the extralegal rite of hanging.

According to some Northern commentators, lynching is peculiar to the South. But even a state as near Chicago as North Dakota finds it expedient to head off future mob action by restoring capital punishment. Presumably, if North Dakota had had a death penalty statute, this week's lynching bee would not have been staged.

Other states have restored the death penalty, after a period of trial without it. The device is more or less fixed in Anglo-Saxon criminal practices. England clings to it with grim determination, and a majority of the American states, grounded in English law, find it indispensable.

There is no evidence that the death penalty has served as a check on mob law in most states, but perhaps North Dakota is about to give the theory a new test.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD

JAN 30 1931

THE SCHAFER CR

Rebellion and anarchy ran amuck in Schafer, North Dakota, in the early hours of yesterday morning, and a fresh blot lies upon the escutcheon of another American commonwealth. No more dastardly and shameful incident has occurred anywhere at any time; nowhere has there been a bolder defiance of established law and order. This lynching did not even have behind it the defilement of the sacred person of a woman or child as an incentive to infuriate the mob or an extenuation for its frightful fury. The crime for which the mob committed a mass crime was brutal beyond expression, and its avengers were beasts of only a little lower order but far more dangerous because they usurped the prerogatives of the court of justice, mocked its sacredness and outraged justice. It did not have even the excuse of sudden uncontrollable passion as the crime for which this man was done to death was months old.

This newspaper along with others the country over has tried with all the force at its command to combat this wicked spirit which manifests itself the moment some criminal takes life, or defiles the body of a woman because we realize that every such outbreak lowers the resistance of the nation against crime, rendering life and property less secure and government less stable and authoritative. Every lynching murder further weakens the foundation upon which society rests while it threatens the pillars of the superstructure so carefully constructed for the protection of American citizens of high and low degree—all of whom stand before the bar of justice upon the same common level.

The latest outbreak in the far western section, coupled with other vicious demonstrations in Indiana and Ohio against Negroes should have a sobering effect upon those bitter critics of the south who have no realization of the provocation growing out of the commission of the unspeakable crime. Hereafter they should be at least more sympathetic though they do not condone either the crime of assault or lynching. As we have said before, lynching outlawry is not indigenous to any state or section. Under the same provocation the North Dakota mob, if the accused were black, might have supplemented its fiendishness with the funeral pyre as we have reason to recall in the Missouri reversion to savagery. Some one has said that under the skin we are still barbarians. Given the excuse we would rule by the claw and the fang, the cynics say. After all our culture and veneer inwardly we are primitive men transplanted into the field of a civilization that is patently still on trial.

Times
RICHMOND
VIRGINIA

JAN 30 1931

The North Dakota Lynching

PERHAPS members of the mob which beat down the doors of a North Dakota jail, dragged from his cell a young man held for murder, and strung him by his neck to a bridge, flatter themselves that they did not act on the impulse of the moment, but after long and serious deliberation. The victim of the lynching confessed his crime early in December. Nearly two months had elapsed before the vigilantes decided to take the law into their own hands. The murderer stood on the very threshold of the temple of justice. He would have been arraigned for trial the next day.

It was a very seemly lynching, if one may employ such an adjective to describe an act of mob violence. There was no dragging of the hapless victim to the scene of his death. There was no cruel funeral pyre for a living man; no evidence of fiendish glee over the fate of a fellow being; no instruments of torture to intensify the element of horror. The mob even was so gracious as to spare the life of the man's father, held in jail on the same charge. His executioners were decent enough to drop him thirty feet from the bridge, so that he would go painlessly into the other world.

No doubt, the North Dakotans will say that in these details their lynchings differ from those in the South. They are welcome to this salving of their consciences. Mob violence is mob violence, no matter how it is committed. It is a crime against the State and should be treated as such. Here in Virginia the Commonwealth does not leave the prosecution of lynchers to local authorities but has set up special machinery, operated by the Attorney-General, to deal with the guilty parties.

Telegraph

1-19-31

"THE LYNCHING BELT"

One result of the latest two events in the realm of mob violence is creation of the necessity of redefining the boundaries of the "lynching belt", a term for some years contemptuously applied to the South by certain professional friends of the colored race in the North.

The substantial law-respecting people in the South, and they are in the majority in this section, deplore lynching wherever it occurs, and favor punishment for lynchers that is deserved by all murderers. This class of people in the South take no pleasure in witnessing mob violence in the North, notwithstanding many people in the North have undertaken to make it appear that lynching is an evil peculiar to the South.

The fact that the two lynchings that have thus far occurred in 1931 took place north of Mason and Dixon's line is something deserving of attention. It is clear evidence that lynching is not a sectional evil, not peculiar to "Southern barbarians," but a crime that is likely to be perpetrated anywhere that sufficiently strong incentive is furnished.

Macon, Ga.

These two lynchings, the one in Missouri and the other in North Dakota, are reminders that Northern mobs can dip just as deep into savagery as do Southern mobs, when blood lust is aroused and men throw reason and restraint to the winds. They emphasize anew that the Mason and Dixon line is not the northern boundary of "the lynching belt". No. It is to be regretted, the boundary line of that belt runs around virtually the whole Nation. Mob violence is our National disgrace.—Houston Post-Dispatch.

ATLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION

JAN 16 1931

STAMP OUT LYNCHING

The conference of Georgia women to stimulate and consolidate public sentiment against mob law and lynching puts an acute accent upon their wisdom, courage and humanity.

The clearest and bravest point of their agenda is their repudiation of the crass and contemptible claim that it is in defense of the honor, virtue and personal safety of Georgia and southern women that lynching mobs rape justice and wreak their own criminal complex with rope, and gun and fire. Most of the lawless mob transactions have no such incitement. And when they have, and the culprit is captured, the law is at hand and capable of dealing justice to the community and the criminal.

How much oftener must it be proclaimed from court, press and pulpit that there is no case anywhere in civilized America that justifies lynching? It is a fiendish and indefensible crime of crimes, committed first against the peace and honor of the community and then with brute rage against a helpless victim. Without exception every lynching is an exhibition and confession of cowardice and cruelty.

The women of Mississippi are moving to hold an anti-lynching conference later this month. Governor Richards, leaving the executive chair of South Carolina this week, has registered a denunciation of the shame brought upon the state by lynching mobs. The feeling, often expressed in these columns, is spreading strongly that one of the most imperative, self-respecting and self-defensive duties of the southern people is to make lynching among the most dangerous enterprises in which our ignorant and brutal element will venture to engage.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
NEWS

FEB 2 - 1931

DEATH PENALTY AND THE MOB

NOW THAT NORTH DAKOTA has suffered its first lynching in 17 years, two State Senators have introduced a bill to restore capital punishment—abolished in 1915. That legislation is not proposed—as might be inferred—to punish the mob murderers, but to rob would-be lynchers of a pretext hereafter. In other States, however, apologists for such outrages point to the law's delays and the apparent ease with which even the murderer escapes justice through technicalities. Still, practically every State that has done away with the gallows or the chair now rues the error.

The Kansas Legislature is considering a bill to restore the death penalty, because of an alarming increase in banditry and gang murder. Similarly, the Michigan and Wisconsin assemblies debate such a measure every two years. Then one has the examples of Iowa, Colorado, Oregon and several European countries, forced to revive the death penalty after a few years by intolerable crime conditions. Theoretically, the extreme penalty may be ineffectual; but it does work where consistently, swiftly and impartially applied—as in England and Canada. Those countries suffer few murders and no lynchings.

DALLAS, TEX.
TIMES HERALD

FEB 2 - 1931

A LYNCHING IN NORTH DAKOTA.

SOUTHERNERS have been abused so bitterly and so broadly as a class by some of our Northern brethern because we have an occasional lynching that they can be pardoned for not allowing the lynching in North Dakota to pass without comment.

A mob of enraged citizens stormed the jail at Schafer, North Dakota, the other day and seized a white man who was about to go on trial for murder, and hanged him.

The sheriff and his deputies refused to give up the man, but there is no evidence that they offered any more determined resistance than Southern officials usually offer.

Human nature is the same everywhere, and when men let themselves become sufficiently enraged to refuse to allow the law to take its course they must be condemned as uncivilized and unenlightened. Lynching deserves condemnation, but the condemners should not condemn any whole section for the action of a few misguided individuals.

GALVESTON, TEX.
NEWS

JAN 31 1931

LYNCHING BELT MOVING NORTHWARD.

Nineteen thirty-one thus far promises no abatement of the lynching evil, but it sees the lynching belt moving northward. The year's first lynching was at Marysville, Mo., and the second at Schafer, N. D. So far this year the "deep South" has not produced a crime of this character, though experinece cautions against being too sanguine about a continuance of that good record. The Missouri victim was a negro accused of outraging and murdering a white woman, while the North Dakota victim, hanged by a mob Thursday, was a white man who had confessed to murdering a family of six.

Mob violence never has been entirely unknown in the North, though Northern diatribes against Southern "barbarism" might lead the uninformed to believe that this form of disrespect for law is peculiar to the region south of Mason and Dixon's line. It would be useless to deny, of course, that the South is the worst offender in this respect, and that mob fury usually is vented against negroes. But of late there has been little to choose between the two sections. Last year two negroes were lynched at Marion, Ind., and negroes in that community were terrorized for days.

It is not a matter for exultation, but the growing blot on the North's own record may bring the people of that section to unite with their Southern compatriots in a more understanding effort to rid the nation of an evil that never has been due to the barbaric ities of the people of one geographic division.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

JAN 30 1931

Enforcement Needed.

The lynching of a young white man by a mob of 80 masked men near Schafer, N. D., yesterday emphasizes the necessity for a nation-wide policy of law enforcement that will put the fear of God and of government into the cavern hearts of would-be mobbers.

If the cowards who feel the urge to participate in lynchings were made to realize their acts would be swiftly and severely punished by the courts, instead of being ignored or even condoned by the authorities as has sometimes been the case, there would be few lynchings in this country.

Lynchings, symbolizing the breakdown of government and the triumph of anarchy, may be expected to continue as long as the authorities permit mobmen to go unpunished and as long as the public ignores or condones such crimes.

North Dakota furnishes the second lynching of this year, Missouri heading the 1931 lynching parade. The North Dakota victim, Charles Brannon, 22 year old farm worker, was to have been arraigned within one day on charges of murdering a family of six.

The mob, over-powering a sheriff and a deputy, according to press dispatches, took the prisoner from the McKenzie county jail, whisked him away in a car and hanged him from a bridge.

"Save my dad," was the young man's pathetic plea as the noose was being slipped around his neck. And the tender-hearted mobmen said they would give the father "a chance" for a trial in court. Early reports of the crime do not indicate with what offense or offenses the father is charged.

The North Dakota lynching also directs attention to the fact that such crimes are not confined to any one section of the country, although the larger number have occurred in the southern states.

Twenty-one persons were lynched in the United States in 1930, according to the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute. The 1930 record by states is: Alabama, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Indiana, 2; Mississippi, 4; North Carolina, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 2; Texas, 3. In 40 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern and western states, and 35 in southern states.

ATLANTA, GA.
GEORGIAN

JAN 15 1931

2 GROUPS SCORE LYNCHING

Lynching was condemned Wednesday from two sources, a meeting of the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching and a session of the Georgia Inter-Racial Commission.

A resolution adopted at the women's meeting in the Piedmont Hotel stated:

"The real victim of lynching is not so much the person done to death, but constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other."

At the meeting of the Inter-Racial Commission, Police Chief Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, said:

"Lynching is the blackest blot smeared across our history, but a crime which practically any determined police chief can prevent if he will only work quickly enough."

Those attending the women's meeting, were Miss Abigail Curler, Decatur; Mrs. Willie Snow Ethridge, Macon; Miss Lucy Mason, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Julian Harris, Atlanta; Mrs. Alonzo Park, Lithonia; Mrs. W. A. Turner, of Newnan; Mrs. W. T. Morton, Atlanta; Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs. John J. Eagan, Atlanta; Mrs. Henry L. Gershon, Atlanta; Mrs. Annie Linton, Athens; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta; Mrs. C. A. VerNooy, Athens, and Miss Elizabeth Head, Athens.

NEWS
CHARLESTON, S. C.

FEB 4 1931

Lynching Area Extends North

In North Dakota the other day a mob overpowered a jailer and lynched a white man who had murdered a family of six persons. This might have happened in South Carolina, in which the "white man's civilization" was established two centuries earlier than in North Dakota. Better things ought to be expected of South Carolina, but they are not.

However, the South Carolinians defeated the last open champion of lynching for the one crime when they had the chance, and one does not recall that ever he publicly defended the hanging without trial and conviction of a man for the murder of a family of six or for murder in any case.

Five persons have been lynched in South Carolina in the last six years, three were not charged with the "usual crime," and one seems to have been fairly exonerated of the charge.

The victim in North Dakota was a young white man. In South Carolina white men seldom have been lynched, and for this there are two reasons. One is that white men perhaps do not commit the crimes that inflame the passions of the mob.

The other is that it is easier to lynch a negro.

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

White Press, (Southern.)

3326

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Sunday, July 5, 1931

ANTI-LYNCH RECORD IS LAUDED BY WOMEN

Results in First Half of Year Are Praised by Two Organizations.

Two southern women's associations for the prevention of lynching Saturday issued statements of gratification at the south's record for the first six months of 1931.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching said "the first half of 1931 brings much encouragement to increasing numbers of southern people who have committed themselves to an unceasing fight" against lynching.

Only five lynchings occurred throughout the United States during the first half of 1931, the association pointed out, as compared with 30 for the same period of 1922 "in a similar period of depression."

The statement added that southern newspapers have played a leading part in the campaign against lynching and have supported various officials and officers and citizens "who by united action have prevented mob execution against 49 persons within the southern states alone."

The Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching issued the second statement.

The Georgia association, the statement read, "is justly proud that the record of lynchings for the first half of 1931 carries no mark against their state. Prompt action on the part of the governor, local officials and courageous individual citizens has brought about this gratifying situation, thus providing the protection of the law for eight persons."

The names of women from Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia were signed to the southern statement. Fourteen Georgia women signed the other.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
DEMOCRAT
JUL 10 1931

Would Stamp Out Lynching

Church Women of Five States in Protest at Mt. Sequoyah.

Fayetteville, July 10.—(AP)—Forty women from five states, attending the leadership school of the Methodist church, South, on Mount Sequoyah here, have signed a petition pledging themselves to seek to arouse public opinion in their communities against lynching.

"We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts the assumption that it is for protection of white women," says the petition. "We hold that we owe it, not only to our own times but to posterity to repudiate acts of mobs and lynchers and declare that if our constitution, our laws, our courts cannot protect women, then our civilization is a travesty and our religion a mockery."

The women pledge themselves to arouse public opinion "to the menace of the crime of lynching" by educating the youth of their communities, and calling upon the press, churches, schools and other citizens.

Women from Arkansas who signed the petition include: Mrs. J. M. Hughey, Marianna; Mrs. R. G. Cox, Fort Smith; Mrs. J. C. Green, Mrs. J. R. McAllister, Mrs. C. B. Nelson, Little Rock; Mrs. Ira A. Brumley, North Little Rock; Mrs. A. R. McKinney, Texarkana; Mrs. J. W. Bell, Greenwood; Mrs. W. P. Woodard, Pine Bluff.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS
JUL 9 1931

HIGHLY ENCOURAGING.

Official figures which have just been released reveal a decided falling off in lynchings for the first six months of the current year, a total of five having been reported for the period as compared with nine for the same term of months in 1930. The reduced figure is all the more favorable when contrasted with statistics covering a ten-years' period.

The upward spurt in 1930 was attributed by many commentators to the economic depression and its psychological effects. That being the case, the decrease for the early months of this year must be welcome news to an administration which has been bending every effort for the betterment of business conditions. Is a decline in lynchings evidence of the lifting of the depression? Those grabbing for signs may attach some significance to the circumstance, but the connection, as was the explanation for last year's increase, appears far more imaginary than real.

Rather there is evidence that the spirit which prompts lynchings showed no diminution but that officers—and the aspect is highly encouraging—have exhibited better judgment, more gray matter and a keener sense of their responsibilities in the prevention of mob violence. During the six months for which the falling off was noted, authorities are credited with thwarting 32 mob attacks, 28 of the frustrations occurring in southern states. In 26 instances speedy removal of prisoners or prompt action in calling for troops headed off mobsters. In six others, the officers of the law met force with force and dispersed attacking bands. As a result of these frustrations, 55 persons, 10 whites and 45 blacks, were accorded the full protection which the law guarantees them, to say nothing of prolonged lives and trials by orderly processes.

While condemnation cannot be lifted as long as a single lynching stains the section's or the nation's 'scutcheon, the record for the last six months, particularly as it relates to the prevention of mob outbreaks, offers great encouragement. Have officers become more alive to their responsibilities and the cause of justice? Has an altered sentiment put in effective work? The statistics, even though the next six months may witness a damnable increase, show what can be done. The improvement should accentuate the study of lynchings, their cause and prevention, which is now under way, and lead to more vigorous action for erasure of the lynching blot. The figures for the first half of 1931 show, above all else, that it can be done, and that solution lies largely in the hands of officers of the law. It cannot possibly be denied that officials, as individuals and as a group, are highly susceptible to the pressure of public opinion.

BONHAM, TEX.
DAILY FAVORITE
JUL 11 1931

AGAINST LYNCHING

Forty women from five states attending the Methodist Western Assembly at Mt. Sequoyah, Ark., have signed a petition which pledges them to work to arouse public in their respective communities against the crime of lynching. The petition said in part: "We, the women of the leadership school of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, believe the crime of lynching undermines all ideals of government and religion which we hold sacred and which we try by our lives and our conduct to implant in the minds of our youth. We recognize that all lynching will be defended so long as the public generally accepts assumption that it is for protection of white women. We hold that we owe it not only to our own times but to posterity to repudiate acts of mobs and lynchers and declare that if our Constitution, our law, our courts can not protect women, then our civilization is a travesty and our religion a mockery.

"We pledge ourselves to arouse public opinion to the menace of the crime of lynching by educating youth of our own communities to an understanding of the consequences of such lawless acts. By calling on the press, churches, schools and every patriotic citizen to join us."

It takes courage for a band of women to publicly repudiate the action of men who believe they are acting to protect the chastity and lives of their women when they lynch men (usually blacks) who violated their persons. It takes courage to say that this assumption on the part of men is wrong, and that the women are ready to accept whatever fate may befall them rather than longer countenance the action of the irresponsible mob.

Truly indeed do these women say that if there is no protection for them under the constitution and the laws of the land, there is no protection possible. Only through the strict observance and enforcement of law are the women secure. Mob action is one of the worst forms of lawlessness; hence mobs afford no permanent protection to either men or women. It invites all other forms of lawlessness.

It will be well if these women go back to their respective communities to arouse public sentiment against lynching. but it will be far better if they will go back and arouse public sentiment against every form of lawlessness, and for the enforcement of all laws. Let them preach, in season and out of season, that there is no liberty and no security outside of law. The individual, society, the State are free only when law rules. Disrespect of authority, flouting of law, whether a traffic ordinance, or the law against murder, mean a lessening of freedom and security.

Let these women themselves understand the full import of their declaration that if "the constitution, our laws and our courts cannot protect them" there is no protection. There are far greater menaces today to our womanhood than the occasional ravisher. These menaces threaten every day and night in every community in the land. The only way to remove them is to properly enforce the law. Teach respect for law; teach the necessity for observance of law; insist on the enforcement of law. Do this and the menace of the mob will no longer confront us.

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST DISPATCH

JUL 17

Lynchings Decrease

THE number of lynchings is decreasing steadily, according to figures compiled by Tuskegee institute, but the records bring the disheartening revelation that there is no diminution of the mob spirit.

During the first six months of this year, five lynchings occurred, which is four less than in the same period of 1930. During the first six months of 1921, just 10 years ago, 36 lynchings disgraced the South. Since that time, the trend has been toward fewer lynchings, with only four reported during the first half of 1929.

On the surface, the situation appears to have improved. Actually, mob spirit is as rampant as ever and the figures force the conclusion that the improvement has been attained because officers of the law are demonstrating more courage and more fidelity to their trust by protecting prisoners from the fury of mobs.

During the first six months of this year, officers prevented 32 prisoners from falling into the hands of lynchers. If these attempted assassinations had succeeded, the record would have been worse than that of 1921.

While every person who seeks the elimination of the lynching blot from the South's escutcheon, deplores the fact that respect for law has not eliminated mob spirit, the changed attitude of officers is gratifying indeed.

Many lynchings in the past undoubtedly were perpetrated with the consent of officers. Others were carried out because the officers made no efforts to save their prisoners. Still others resulted from negligence on the part of officers in providing sufficient protection and from failure to move prisoners when strong feeling was apparent.

Without the aid of the officers, the lynching disgrace could not be eliminated. With the law standing firmly between the mob and its prey, mob murders can and will be stamped out.

Blackshear, Ga., Times
Thursday, July 9, 1931

Lynchless Half Year In Stat

Among church people of the Stat men and women, there have bee those who have given effective se vice in averting the threat of m violence. The majority of the leadi newspapers of Georgia have been u tiring in their efforts to create a sa public opinion on this subject. We look to our new Governor to lead in maintaining this record for the remainder of the year. We confidently believe that the time is not far distant when public opinion will look upon even attempted mob action as a crime from which there shall be no immunity.

Signed: Miss Elizabeth Head, Atlanta; Miss Annie Linton, Athens; Mrs. Harry M. Gershon, Atlanta; Mrs. J. Eagan, Atlanta; Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs. Willie Snow Etheridge, Macon; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan; Mrs. H. H. Hirsch, Atlanta; Mrs. W. A. Albright, Atlanta; Mrs. E. B. Harreld, Macon; Mrs. B. F. Boykin, Carrollton; Mrs. W. Frank Smith, Atlanta; Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, Atlanta; Miss Mary Dickinson, Atlanta.

Birmingham, Ala. News
Thursday, July 9, 1931

A WORD OF WARNING

To the Editor The News:

At a public meeting recently a speaker gave counsel that impressed common-sense people as being not only unwise but dangerous. It was encouraging Communist doctrines as being helpful to the Negro and decrying our city officials. The colored citizens of Birmingham who think, regret deeply such propaganda. There are numbers of ignorant members of our race who may be led by these blind guides, and we herein appeal to the ministers of the gospel and other leaders of our people to instruct from the pulpit and on every occasion possible as to the fallacy of Communism. We would sound a warning to every colored man and woman to beware of the teachings of this organization. No good can possibly come of paying the least heed to their apparently fair talk, and harm, dire and fearful, will befall those who lend listening ears to what is only bunk.

Instead, let us, my dear people, go on doing our duty, trusting in that heavenly friend who has brought us thus far and whose promises are sure and steadfast to guide us all the way. We should aim to maintain the kindly feeling that exists between the races, to cultivate the spirit of good-will and cooperation, respect the laws of our country, and leave our problems, however trying they may seem, in the hands of Him who says, "No good thing will I withhold from him who walks uprightly."

Let there be no muttering consultations behind closed doors; remember "what is done in secret shall be proclaimed upon the housetop." Let not false teachers influence you to do foolishly. Don't believe everything you hear, and finally, may our people do nothing to break friendships with those who have shown sympathy and the spirit of helpfulness all through our city's history. We need friends like these, staunch and true, and certainly the Negro, more than any other people, can ill afford to do anything that will cause the least degree of estrangement. "Take heed what you hear."

A word to the Court of Calanthes. We pray you be not moved by every wind of doctrine coming from outsiders. Tuggle Institute is a home product, the result of years of struggle and sacrifice by that indomitable Christian race lover, Carrie Tuggle, assisted by some of the finest white citizens in Birmingham. This school that is caring for orphan children and giving training to number of boys and girls in the practical, sensible things of life, should command the faithful support of every Negro woman in whose heart is born the mother instinct. Let your minds revert to Carrie Tuggle's devotion to the uplift of the Negro youth and let it be the determination of every loyal heart to stand by this institution and say her efforts shall not be in vain.

1116 Walker St. MRS. C. H. JOHNSON (Col.).

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

JUL 10 1931

The Lynching Tide Recedes

In an article of characteristic artisanry in one of the liberal magazines some months ago—it is regretted that the name of the periodical is not in memory—Sherwood Anderson anticipated that an incident of the business stagnation would be lynchings, especially of proud, undiplomatic negroes. It is not recalled whether Mr. Anderson undertook to develop his theme logically, and he mentioned no insect analogy; but it would be something like this: certain of the *apidea*, industrious, pacifist, inoffensive neighbors while the blossoms of the vicinity are yielding all the wealth the colony can gather, transport and preserve, change character entirely upon a cessation of the flow. The current of their activities is stopped, the benign outlet for their nervous energy is no more. Loss takes the place of profit, as the hours can no longer be spent in a normal accretion of food against the winter. Their tempers become diabolical, individually and in mass they become bad actors, their hum, no longer sedative, fills the air with angry menace, and they hesitate to engage in mortal attack no living creature, having become a senseless mob.

Actually, whereas there were nine lynchings in the United States the first six months of 1930, there were five in the first six months of 1931. The nine represented a sharp increase over periods for several years prior. It is true that in the beginning last year the country was nearer to the shock of the sudden change from happiness to misery, as these terms are in the American lexicon. The flow of honey had but recently stopped.

The first half of this year 32 mobs failed to lynch anybody. Twenty-eight of these were in the southeast group of states. In 26 of the frustrations, the officers of the law either removed from the mob vicinity persons held for trial, or troops were called to protect. In six cases the shrievalty or police forces made no concessions, but stood and told crazy assemblies to be off. There were, all told, 55 persons in jeopardy, and it is a fairly certain conclusion that but for the fidelity of the authorities there would have been 55 corpses of persons unconvicted of crime. Ten of these white.

LEADER
Brookhaven, Miss.

JUL 25 1931

CONTROL OF LYNCHING MADE HARD.

Recent troubles in Alabama where a negro mass meeting was marked by threats of death to the governor of the state unless executive clemency were extended to eight negroes convicted and sentenced to death on charges of assault on two white girls, constitute an argument which will continually confront the better element of both white and colored races in an effort to stamp out lynching.

The eight negroes, all hoboes, were charged and convicted with having assaulted two Chattanooga girls, who were also beating their way on a train. The negroes were arrested at a little Alabama town, and despite an inflamed and outraged public were tried in an orderly manner.

Immediately the Association for the Advancement of Negroes, and other organizations began a campaign of criticism of the Alabama courts which led to demonstrations in Russia and by communists in other nations, culminating in an attempt by hired organizers to inflame the negroes of Alabama.

The expected happened. A number of misguided negroes were killed and several others jailed.

Meanwhile the negro rapists in jail were still alive while lawyers fought their battle in the courts. Had the rapists been lynched at the time of discovery of the crime, the finger of scorn might have been pointed at Alabama, but the lives of a sheriff and innocent but misled negroes might have been saved.

The northern associations which are guilty of stirring up strife are making it difficult for southern people who want to eliminate lynching to make any progress. — Greenwood Commonwealth.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions

White Press. (Southern.)

3327

WOMEN ~~TO ORGANIZE~~ FOR WAR ON LYNCHING

constitution
1-4-31
Atlanta, Ga.

The part southern women can take in wiping out the crime of lynching from the pages of future history of the south will be considered at a conference to be held at 12:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, January 14, at the Piedmont hotel. The group of women first came together at the call of the Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation on November 1. Seven southeastern states were represented at the meeting.

Women who attended the first conference pledged themselves to invite others of like mind to confer with them on a program of education to blot lynching from the south, and to call upon "all right-thinking men and women to do their utmost in every way for the complete eradication of this crime.

During 1930, the south had a record of 19 of the 21 lynchings reported, it was said Tuesday. Georgia had six, Mississippi four, Texas three, South Carolina two, and North Carolina, Alabama, Florida and Oklahoma one each. The call for the conference was issued by Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan, acting for the Georgia committee, which is composed of the following named women: Mrs. E. B. Harrold, Macon; Mrs. Willie Snow Etheridge, Macon; Mrs. E. Marvin Underwood, Atlanta; Mrs. W. T. Martin, Atlanta; Mrs. W. Frank Smith, Augusta, and Mrs. Buford Boykin, Carrollton.

Atlanta, Ga., Georgian
Wednesday, January 7, 1931

Women to Launch War on Lynching

Program by which Southern women can aid in eliminating lynching will be outlined in conference January 14 at the Piedmont Hotel, with women representing seven Southern States. The conference was called by Mrs. W. A. Turner, of Newnan, acting for the Georgia committee of the Commission on Inter-Racial Cooperation. First meeting of the women's group was held here on November 1.

ATLANTA, GA.
GEORGIAN

JAN 7 - 1931

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CHATTANOOGA, TENN., TIMES
Thursday, January 1, 1931

LYNCHING IN 1930.

One of the most regrettable developments of the year that has just closed was a marked increase in mob violence. While 1929 was marred by only twelve lynchings, 1930 was disgraced by twenty-five mob executions. This represented an increase of more than 100 per cent in the lynching record, right on the heels of a rising hope that the country was approaching a day when this blot upon American civilization would no longer exist.

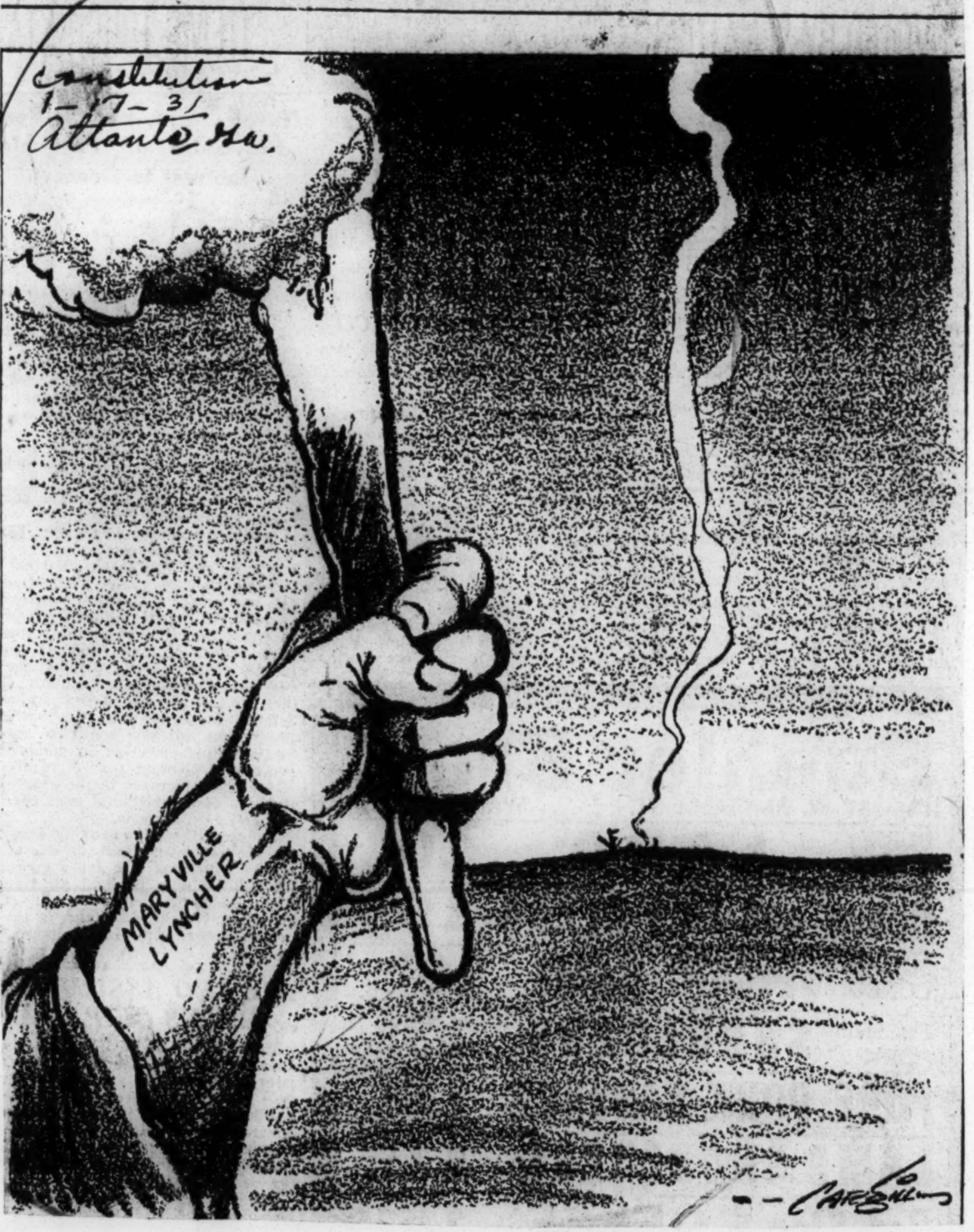
Of the victims of mob violence last year, one is reported to have been a white man, while twenty-four were negroes. The record by states has been published as follows: Georgia, seven lynchings; Alabama and Texas, four each; Mississippi, three; Indiana and South Carolina, two each; Florida North Carolina and Oklahoma, one each. As will be seen from the foregoing, Georgia led the country in mob executions, having almost twice as many as any other State.

~~MISSISSIPPI WOMEN~~ FORM ANTI-MOB BODY

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. [illegible]—(AP)—Women here today formed a local chapter of the Mississippi Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching, announcing their intention of taking an active part in curbing mob violence in the state.

The program calls for using the schools, press, pulpit and personal contact in "building up public sentiment in favor of law and order."

The Torch of Civilization in Missouri



constitution
1-17-31
Atlanta, Ga.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA
DAILY PRESS
JAN 14 1931

BENEATH THE VENEER—WHAT?

Savagery, as cruel and merciless as ever was recorded on history's darkest page, again ha reared its venomous head to cause a general feel ng of revulsion among law-abiding, God-fearing tizens and cause men and women everywher o stop anew and ask just how deep is the venee which cloaks twentieth-century civilization.

A Missouri mob, bloodthirsty, shrieking fo vengeance, howling in devilish glee for the life weat of a fellow man, took the law of the lan in its now-crimson hands Monday and did a whining, begging black man to death in a manne which would have put to shame the fabled tortures of the Redskin aborigine and caused th terrible eduelties of the Spanish Inquisition t take on a humane aspect.

It was, in the language to which newspape readers have become accustomed, another of th lynchings which periodically take place in various parts of the United States. But thoughtfu persons must see in the incident—and in its fiendish, consummate deviltry of execution—a deepe portent.

The putting to death of a negro by the Missour mob must cause every upright man to shudder every good woman to recoil in horror at the brutality and the flagrant contempt which the ac denoted against the laws of the nation. Mor than that; mob law strikes directly at the root o all organized law and order, all government. . . It is a stab in the dark against the Constitution.

Guilty though the lynched man was—for press dispatches say he had confessed clubbing a young school teacher to death after criminally attacking her—it remains that mob law is both defiance of and a direct threat to organized authority.

The victim was seized, dragged several miles taken to the scene where, news dispatches say, he committed his heinous crime. He was made to climb the school building. Barefooted, virtually nude, beseeching mercy, the wretched man was chained to a pole. Enough shingles were cut away to permit fastening his legs to the rafters.

Gasoline poured over furniture, the floors of the building, the walls. Then the torch. . . . .

More than 2,000 persons, the dispatches say, watched the spectacle. The flames shot up. A man . . . a human, black though he was, and guilty of the most heinous crime against his Saviour and against society . . . he was a man, nevertheless. . . . . And the law says he first shall have a fair and orderly trial; shall be sentenced by a judge to his fate!

In that group, too, were women. And children. It must have been a sorry sight . . . the thing they watched, seemingly with relish and blood-curdling avidity.

It was not the crime which the mob committed against the negro which is so revolting. It is that each and every man who lent a hand to the deed branded himself a traitor to a great cause . . . The cause of law and order.

Every person who helped lynch that miserable wretch committed a terrible offense against his own home, against the society in which he and his family move, against the very root of our government—the Constitution. Every participant imperiled, by his act, his wife and his children, his home, his State.

The man had confessed. The State would have dealt swiftly with him. No doubt justice would have been dealt with dispatch and precision, for in cases of that sort, justice seldom errs in its final dispensation.

RALEIGH, N. C
NEWS OBSERVER
JAN 12 1931

WHAT CAUSES LYNCHING?

The country deplores the increase in the number of [redacted] in the year 1930 over the previous year. What caused the increase? The answer that most people would make is that there is a greater spirit of lawlessness afloat in all directions. The Chicago lawlessness is based on the craze for easy money, and in New York judgeships are bought and sold. No money taint promotes lynching. It is the resu of hot passion when the crime is rape, a lap into barbarism, and lack of respect for t orderly processes of the courts.

The Baltimore *Sun* advances other views. says the increase in lynchings are due to th causes:

1. Unemployment;
2. Decline of the Ku Klux Klan.

Elaborating, *The Sun* says:

> Thousands of the singularly tough element that compose Southern lynching mobs have had nothing to do this year and time has lain heavy on their hands. Under such circumstances it was inevitable that they should amuse themselves by murdering a few more Negroes.
>
> When the Klan began to decline the lynching rate bounded up again. The thrill that came from parading in a nightshirt palled on the communities, and with boredom comes the lust for blood.
>
> Some gory sport—bull fighting, for instance—would be an effective outlet for this recurring blood lust.

If this diagnosis is correct, all should urge the reorganization of the Klan. To state that as a way to reduce lynching is to expose the lack of reason in *The Sun's* second explanation. Unemployment is advanced, doubtless, on the theory that "the devil finds work for idle hands to do."

When men control themselves, have a passion for law and hate mob rule, all lynchings will cease in days of unemployment as well as in normal times. All good men should pray for the early coming of that time.

Atlanta, Ga., Georgian
Thursday, January 15, 1931

2 GROUPS SCORE LYNCHING

Lynching was condemned Wednesday from two sources, a meeting of the Georgia Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching and a session of the Georgia Inter-Racial Commission.

A resolution adopted at the women's meeting in the Piedmont Hotel stated:

"The real victim of lynching is not so much the person done to death, but constituted and regularly established government. This crime is a greater menace to our homes, our children and our country than any other."

At the meeting of the Inter-Racial Commission, Police Chief Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, said:

"Lynching is the blackest blot smeared across our history, but a crime which practically any determined police chief can prevent if he will only work quickly enough."

Those attending the women's meeting, were Miss Abigail Curler, Decatur; Mrs. Willie Snow Ethridge, Macon; Miss Lucy Mason, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Julian Harris, Atlanta; Mrs. Alonzo Park Lithonia; Mrs. W. A. Turner, of Newnan; Mrs. W. T. Morton, Atlanta; Mrs. S. F. Boykin, Atlanta; Mrs. John J. Eagan, Atlanta; Mrs. Henry L. Gershon, Atlanta; Mrs. Annie Linton, Athens; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta; Mrs. C. A. VerNooy, Athens, and Miss Elizabeth Head, Athens.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Friday, January 16, 1931

STAMP OUT LYNCHING.

The conference of Georgia women to stimulate and consolidate public sentiment against mob law and lynching puts an acute accent upon their wisdom, courage and humanity.

The clearest and bravest point of their agenda is their repudiation of the crass and contemptible claim hat it is in defense of the honor, virtue and personal safety of Georgia and southern women that lynching mobs rape justice and wreak their own criminal complex with rope and gun and fire. Most of the less mob transactions have no incitement. And when they have and the culprit is captured, the law is at hand and capable of dealing justice to the community and the criminal.

How much oftener must it be proclaimed from court, press and pulpit that there is no case anywhere in civilized America that justifies lynching? It is a fiendish and indefensible crime of crimes, committed first against the peace and honor of the community and then with brute rage against a helpless victim. Without exception every lynching is an exhibition and confession of cowardice and cruelty.

The women of Mississippi are moving to hold an anti-lynching conference later this month. Governor Richards, leaving the executive chair of South Carolina this week, has registered a denunciation of the shame brought upon the state by lynching mobs. The feeling, often expressed in these columns, is spreading strongly that one of the most imperative, self-respecting and self-defensive duties of the southern people is to make lynching among the most dangerous enterprises in which our ignorant and brutal element will venture to engage.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
POST
JAN 13 1931

ANTI-LYNCHING GROUP FORMED

Women Take Stand A Meeting Held Here

An anti-lynching association wa formed by Alabama women in meeting at Hotel Tutwiler Monday.

Statewide committees to wor with similar groups in other state was recommended by Mrs. Jessi Daniel Ames, director of Women' work of the Commission on Inter acial Cooperation at Atlanta.

The executive committee chosen included: Mrs. W. F. Adams, Mrs Payton Eubank, Mrs. Mary Russell, Mrs. James Shook and Mrs . H. McCoy.

"Lynching is not necessary t protect "southern womanhood," he group reported, "it tends t estroy all respect for law and o er and brutalizes the communit here it occurs."

There has been only one lynch ng in Alabama in five years, bu resulted in the death of five ther persons.

Lynchings-1931
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

3328

Times
San Angelo, Tex.

DEC 9 1931

The Anti-Lynching Law

THE deplorable action of an angered mob of 2,500 last week in lynching a negro in Salisbury, Md., should serve as another rebuke to the northern critics who have heaped abuse upon southern states whenever there has been a lynching in this section. On every such occasion, many of them, including a Chicago publication which modestly calls itself the "world's greatest newspaper," have assailed the south and the southern people and renewed their pleas for a federal anti-lynching law.

Maryland, of course, is not a northern state, but the lynching took place almost within the shadow of the federal capitol at Washington and within a few miles of the home of H. L. Mencken, who has set himself up as one of the most severe critics of the south. The mere fact that a Maryland mob lynched a negro does not make the crime any less when it occurs in Texas, of course. It does serve to show, however, that mob violence is not a sectional trait, and that even in communities near places where negroes face no segregation laws they are treated as brutally as they are in any state. It other words, Texas lynchings occur, not because Texans are lawless nor because they have no regard for a negro's rights, but simply [illegible] cause our civilization has not prog[illegible]ssed [illegible] the point where it is possible for [illegible] abiding in any community to curb the [illegible] archistic tendencies of some individuals regardless of geography. This Maryland case, like the recent one in Indiana, merely confirms that theory.

The Dyer bill, sponsored by northern Republicans, would impose federal penalties on counties which wink at lynchings. It is merely another attempt to take from the states the right of self-government and vest more police authority in the central government in Washington. Republican agitators have clamored for its passage for years, and President Hoover has not looked with unfriendly eyes upon it.

Of course, proponents of the bill ignore the fact that all federal laws are not enforced and that the enforcement of this measure might not be any better than the enforcement of many of our federal laws. They also ignore the fact that gang killings in the large cities of the north and east claim more lives than do lynchings and yet there has been no agitation for the federal government to take over the police power in New York and Chicago. The whole agitation for the bill is simply an expression of sectional prejudice and intolerance.

Fortunately, Democrats are now in control in Congress and the bill, of course, could not be passed at this session. Texans, however, should lose no opportunity to voice their continued opposition to it and to any similar plans. Lynching is one of the black spots in our system of government. It must be stamped out and it will be. But it will be eliminated only through the united action of lawabiding people everywhere and the courageous action of state and county officers, not by any mandate of Republicans in Washington.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

DEC 10 1931

Lynchings In United States

There may come a day when lynchings in this country will not be tolerated and when enforcement of the law will assure safety for suspects of serious crimes when they are lodged in jail. But that day is still a long way off.

The lynching of two Negroes, involved in a fatal shooting in West Virginia, in Lewisburg last night indicates that progress away from mob violence is indeed slow. In this city a man was taken from his home and beaten. The police profess an inability to apprehend the perpetrators. In West Virginia doubtless officers, if there is a determined effort at enforcement, will encounter insurmountable obstacles.

Mob violence is frightening, to an extent, because it illustrates a peculiar lack of respect for order. The desire for effective administration of the laws of the land is lacking when men prefer to administer punishment for certain crimes upon victims thoroughly unable to offer any defense. And the right of a man to protect himself is an inherent one. There can be no satisfaction for mobs in dragging a man from a cell and killing him. The crime, if the victim committed the offense for which mob anger is aroused, is not avenged in any such fashion.

Education will be necessary to develop a feeling against lynching to the point that the evil may be stamped out entirely in this nation. But progress, at best, will be slow.

HOUSTON, TEX.
PRESS

DEC 5 1931

The Anti-Lynching Pledge

INDICATING that another fight will be made in congress for a federal anti-lynching law, the National Equal Rights League has called upon President Hoover for his aid.

Both the republican party and the president have spoken on this issue. The republican party pledged itself to an anti-lynching law "to exterminate this hideous crime." President Hoover has said: "Every decent citizen must condemn the lynching evil as an undermining of the very essence of both justice and democracy." Yet neither acts. The Dyer bill imposing federal penalties upon counties which wink at lynchings has got nowhere under three republican administrations.

While the government hesitates, public opinion moves, all too slowly, to stamp out this American barbarism. Last year there were 21 lynchings, as compared with 225 in 1892. The truth about the cowardly injustice of these lawless episodes also comes out. A group of Southern investigators recently found that less than one-fourth of all lynching victims in the past 40 years were even accused of assaults upon white women. They found that of last year's lynching toll, two were innocent, 11 were "possibly" so.

The problem is acute. There were twice as many lynchings last year as in 1929.

President Hoover has said: "Platform pledges must not be empty gestures."

One test of republican issues will be on this. And what about the democrats?

Lynchings-1931

Discussions.

3329

White Press, Southern.

Presbyterian Advance
NASHVILLE TENN. ~~BANNER~~
NOV. 19. 1931 N27

Southern Commission 'on Lynching

Comprehensive Report Shows Lynching Becoming "Exclusively a Southern Phenomenon" with Probably Half of the Victims Innocent

Over a year ago the Commission on Interracial Cooperation appointed a special commission made up exclusively of Southerners to make a careful study of lynchings. The Commission was headed by George Fort Milton, noted author and editor of *The Chattanooga News*, and with him were associated the following white and colored members:

Julian Harris, News Director of the Atlanta Constitution; Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, President of Furman University and of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. W. P. King, Book Editor of the M. E. Church, South; Dr. John Hope, President of Atlanta University; Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, President of Georgia State College; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Department of Social Science, Fisk University; Dr. R. R. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina; Alex Spence, attorney, of Dallas, Texas; and Dr. Monroe Work of Tuskegee Institute.

The result of the study is an elaborate report which expresses the conviction that two of the twenty-one persons lynched in 1930 were certainly innocent, and eleven others possibly so. Summarized, the main features of the report are:

1. There is real doubt of the guilt of at least half the victims of mob violence.
2. Less than one-fourth of persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white women.
3. The claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes is found to be fallacious.
4. Mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, although grand jury indictments are seldom brought.
5. The rate of lynchings per ten thousand of Negro population is highest in sparsely settled areas.
6. There is a direct relationship between lack of education, low economic status, and lynching danger.

In regard to the offenses for which lynchings occurred in 1930, the Commission's statement says: "One man was lynched solely becaue he had offended political opponents, and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men. In five of the other eleven cases, it was not clear that the mobs got the guilty persons, and in the other six there was doubt as to the truth of the charges against the men lynched." In some cases the Commission found reason to suspect that the victims had been deliberately "framed" for purposes of concealment or revenge.

As a result of careful investigations on the ground, the Commission asserted that, in most lynching cases, if observers had the will and courage to do it, there would be no difficulty in identifying mob leaders and members. Generally the mob members made little or no effort to conceal their identity; yet officers and others present in their midst usually testified that they recognized none of them. This attitude, the report declared, could be attributed only to "connivance or stupidity." This type of local sympathy or intimidation, the Commission continued, was largely responsible for the fact that indictments were returned in only six lynching cases in 1930, and that so far only four of the 49 men indicted have been convicted. The Negro's political impotence was pointed out as a factor in the indifference of officers toward the resistance and prosecution of mobs.

The claim that courts do not convict, often advanced as excuse for lynching, is said to be fallacious, for investigation showed that, in eighteen months, ending July 1, 1931, sixty-eight Negroes were executed by law in the Southern states and 470 were given life sentences. Eight of the executions were for rape, 57 for murder and three for other crimes.

In several instances in which serious crimes led to lynching attempts, the Commission found evidence that "the culprits were defective half-wits whom society, for its own protection, should long since have apprehended and confined." The report pointed out, however, that practically no public provision has been made for such protection, and termed this state of affairs an inexcusable neglect for which the public pays the penalty in crime and insecurity. The Commission found also a probable connection between illiteracy and crime, instancing the facts that not one of the twenty-one mob victims of 1930 had as much as a high school education, only one had gone beyond the fifth grade, and eleven were totally or practically illiterate. This, according to the Commission, suggests the fundamental value of better educational facilities in increasing the level of public security.

Most of those whom the Commission's investigators identified as probable participants in mobs were poorly educated, propertyless, and irresponsible, often unemployed and sometimes with court records. However, a number of those identified as mob members were found to be members of the churches, while a very few had some prominence in the community. It was pointed out that officers from other counties, as well as stockade guards and other petty local officials, in some cases only complicated the situation and at times directly or indirectly abetted the mob. The presence of curious onlookers often had the same effect, the report continued, pointing out that in some instances boys had been conspicuous in the crowds, and sometimes women and children as well. In three cases the National Guard, though on the scene, were wholly ineffective.

The Commission found that, in proportion to Negro population, lynching is commonest in thinly settled counties and in those with less than 25 per cent of Negro population, rather than in the "Black Belt" and in population centers. In number of mob victims since 1889, it was pointed out that Georgia, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana led with 465, 464, 364, and 349 lynchings respectively. But figured on the basis of Negro population, the percentages of lynchings was greatest in Florida, with Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas following in order. The fact was discovered that lynching, while decreasing rapidly during the last three decades, was becoming more exclusively a Southern phenomenon, with 97 per cent of all the country's lynching occurring in the South in recent years, as against 82 per cent in the South in earlier decades.

SWEETWATER, TEX
REPORTER

DEC 11 193

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

THE DEPLORABLE action of an angered mob of 2,500 last week in lynching a negro in Salisbury, Maryland, should serve as another rebuke to the northern critics who have heaped abuse upon southern states whenever there has been a lynching in this section. On every occasion, many of them, including a Chicago publication which modestly calls itself the "world's greatest newspaper," have assailed the south and the southern people and renewed pleas for a federal anti-lynching law.

Maryland, of course, is not a northern state, but the lynching took place almost within the shadow of the federal capitol at Washington and within a few miles of the home of H. L. Mencken, who has set himself up as one of the most severe critics of the south. The mere fact that a Maryland mob lynched a negro does not make the crime any less when it occurs in Texas, of course. It does serve to show, however, that mob violence is not a sectional trait, and that even in communities near places where negroes face no segregation laws they are treated as brutally as they are in any state. In other words, Texas lynchings occur not because Texans are lawless nor because they have no regard for a negro's rights but simply because our civilization has not progressed to the point where it is possible for the law-abiding in any community to curb the anarchistic tendencies of some individuals, regardless of geography. This Maryland case, like the recent one in Indiana, merely confirms that theory.

The Dyer bill, sponsored by northern Republicans, would impose federal penalties on counties which wink at lynchings. It is merely another attempt to take from the states the right of self-government and vest more police authority in the central government in Washington. Republican agitators have clamored for its passage for years, and President Hoover has not looked with unfriendly eyes upon it.

Of course, proponents of the bill ignore the fact that all federal laws are not enforced and that the enforcement of this measure might not be any better than the enforcement of many of our other federal laws. They also ignore the fact that gang killings in the large cities of the north and east claim more lives than do lynchings and yet there has been no agitation for the federal government to take over the police power in New York and Chicago. The whole agitation for the bill is simply an expression of sectional prejudice and intolerance.

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ALVA, OKLA.
REVIEW-COURIER

DEC 2 193

FEWER LYNCHINGS

THE human race gradually is shrugging loose from those primordial instincts which dominate it at times of greatest stress. It is no secret not startling discovery that barbarities are fewer and farther between now than 50 years ago.

The Negro Year Book, 1931-32, contributes valuable evidence to bear out the hypothesis. Lynching has declined steadily since 1892, when 255 persons, 100 whites and 155 negroes were strung up to convenient trees.

In 1929, the fewest number of lynchings was reported since the Negro Year Book began keeping its records back in 1889. But ten cases came to the attention of its committee. While this figure was doubled in 1930 when 21 lynchings occurred, even that mark is far below the average of ten years ago.

In almost every instance, since horse stealing was deserted for the more lucrative pastimes of auto theft and bootlegging, negroes are the victims.

An exaggerated idea of a white man's superiority is directly responsible for these outrages against equity and justice. A white man, unable to write the king's English, read it or speak it with any degree of intelligibility, for some reason considers himself half a dozen notches ahead of the college graduate whose skin happens to be black.

Education eventually will wipe out the rule of Judge Lynch—a rule which has branded the United

d.
come
gs rare-
white trash
dal swamps and
darkest Arkansas,
d Mississippi.

News
Jackson, Miss.

NOV 10 1933

Editorials of Note

McCOMB ENTERPRISE: — A deputy sheriff in a South Mississippi county recently made this statement:

"Any damn negro that kills a white man ought to be hanged, self-defense or no self-defense."

This expression bears contradiction. It has all the earmarks of prejudice, malice and alarming possibilities. More than likely, however, it was an empty political gesture.

There was a time when the colored race was incited by northern rogues who neither understood negroes or cared for southern rights. At that time the South was in a great plight. Our property was at stake. The lives of our people were in jeopardy. Southern womanhood was assaulted, and southern manhood was aroused to the very height of valor. Men fought for the protection of their home,s and history does not reveal a page of more courageous deeds. Southern blood boiled; was shed; but not in vain for southern womanhood and manhood triumphed over dastardly and provoking adversities.

II.

The iron hand of southern manhood demanded that negroes keep their place. The invigorating ideal of southern decency demanded that white men leave the colored race unmolested, and its sanctity untouched. Upon this plane southern chivalry established relations between the two races of the southland.

And yet, solutherners will understand that the agitation which occurred among negroes was almost invariably the result of outside interference. Our northern brothers, doubtless often with good intentions, and yet often as a result of crafty and corrupt ideas, stimulated most of the trouble. Time has corrected this situation.

All in all, however, the negroes have looked upon the white men as their friends. Even when federal soldiers fought for their freedom, they remained loyal to the cause of the Confederacy, binding the wounds of fallen southerners or minding the homes of the fatherless families. Every southerner knows the heart of a real old-fashioned southern darkey; gay, light-hearted, inoffensive, superbly polite, loyal and yet with an uncanny freedom to lie innocently, and often a weakness to walk off with things of little value, but always humble.

Thus is characterized the servant of the South. Never overpaid but always happy. Irresponsible and yet almost indispensable. But sorely dependent upon the white man for his sustenance and his protection. To be sure, he is made to obey the white man, but in return the white man must see that the negro's few simple rights are respected.

Every true southern man knows that the negro belongs to a childlike race. And no real southerner is going to permit an outsider to molest these darkies who are a part of the southland. But too often southerners themselves violate this traditional custom.

III.

Most assuredly, a negro is entitled to a square deal in the courts and in business. He should not be discriminated for or against because the pigment under the skin is black. So long as he respects those about him and obeys the law the courts should try him according to the law. Our code does not stipulate that certain laws are made for whites and certain laws are made for black. All of the restrictions and rights of the law belong to both.

Accordingly we think an officer of the law makes a terrific mistake to say that "A negro who kills a white man should be hanged, self-defense or no self-defense." Such statements only incite disorder, arouse both whites and black needlessly, and stimulate trouble. Of course it may be true that the deputy was only talking idly, and without thinking. We hope so. Yet he may have been making a cheap appeal to a few aroused friends and with a view to creating popular favor. A very cheap and undemocratic circus trick.

And yet, an aroused citizenship, indignant, perhaps honestly outraged, after the excitement is over and in their calm moments will not sanction such a statement from an officer of the law for such a statement is a denial of trial, and a doom of death, not by law duly enacted but by color inherited and unchangeable.

IV

Even a mob is bent on inflicting justice. They seek to revenge and to punish, and because revenge, as they see it, is right. Moved and maddened perhaps by the usual delay and technical evasions of the courts, a group of aroused citizens will often seek to take the law in their own hands. Thus often, both by the law of the courts and by law of the mob, justice wanders far astray. Speedy justice is one of the greatest factors to halt mob law for if friends of attacked citizens can be assured of law enforcement then court rights will likely in most cases be both preserved and protected. And incidentally while we reason against the lawlessness of mob law we also argue against lawful lawlessness which is another way of expressing the damaging and disastrous avenues of escape frequently revealed in court procedure.

This writer has seen a mob in action; has seen a victim tied to a rope and pulled through a city street by a hundred men, has seen the bulky black form harnessed to a sedan hauled to the town's edge like a sled with men riding on top, a bruised form scraped across a gravel road, and at its destination swung from a hackberry tree; has seen outraged men whose minds were drenched in blood; some ordinarily, good citizens, some merely sporting in lynching like a crowd on a fox hunt; has viewed the rock-torn shreds of clothing torn angrily from a dead man, one ear slashed off with a barlow knife; a head crushed in from the blow of a pistol butt; raiment and rope parted as couvenirs, and then a fusilade of cartridges, buckshot, slugs, and steel jackets which perforated all that was left of a transgressor the shots heard only above the yells of a mob.

And then the calm aftermath the quiet misgivings, the individual conscousness of a wrong committed and the mental wailings, and silent lamentations over man's destruction of a man-made law.

V

Inevitably a mob in action is publicly boisterous at first, and silently regretful afterwards. The finer things in men eventually triumphs over the animal instincts.

But the public expects more from its officers, its jurors, its courts They are sworn to apply the law indiscriminately. Gestures at public prejudices to them is open treason. This is why the law should be almost a sacred thing.

After all man's legislated law is founded on God's inspired law, "Thou shalt not." In token of the relation of God's law to man's court, an oath of allegiance to right and truth and fairness is irrevocably demanded before any one can participate in extending the majesty of the law. This is why we denounce any statement which seems to make a joke of the law for it is those who make play things of law enforcement who arouse the righteous indignation of a citizenship and move them to take the law into their own hands.

The officer who said "any damn negro who kills a white man should be hanged, self-defense or no self-defense," proved his inability and unworthiness to serve in a position of law enforcement.

Debunking Lynchers

Telegraph

11-10-31

Macon Ga.

The year's study of lynchings, conducted by a commission headed by George Fort Milton of the Chattanooga News, has verified a great many things most of those who do any thinking have thought and has placed in the hands of enemies of lynchings an assortment of fact that will help them more vigorously to go about the business of stamping out the most evil practice of Southern civilization.

The commission, in short, has debunked lynchings. It has torn away from the abomination the veil of chivalry and the mask of protection of womanhood which it has worn and has revealed it as a stark, ugly thing for which there is no defense, even if the victim be guilty of the vilest crime and as a practice, which, if allowed to flourish, is destructive of institutions which we value.

For instance, the commission says—and supports its statements—that:

Two of the 21 persons lynched in 1932 were innocent entirely; in five other cases there was no certainty that the mobs got the guilty parties and in six more cases, there was doubt of guilt. In half the cases of lynchings, there is doubt of guilt.

Less than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have been accused of assaults upon white woman—22 per cent only were ever accused of crimes against or attempts upon white women.

The claim that courts do not convict Negroes and that lynchings, therefore, are necessary, is refuted by figures.

Mob leaders can be easily identified, but seldom are because of the cowardice or connivance of officers of the law.

The old notion that it is necessary to lynch Negroes to keep them terrorized where they outnumber white persons is shattered by statistics which show that the higher percentage of lynchings is not in thickly settled black belts, but in the more sparsely settled sections like Florida. Oklahoma and Arkansas.

The commission found also a "probable connection" between illiteracy and crime, in that not one of the mob victims of 1930 has as much as a high school education, one only had gone beyond the fifth grade and 11 were practically or totally illiterate. The commission does not say so, but it would no doubt have found a high percentage of illiteracy in the mobs that lynched, if it could have "psychographed" the mob members. Lynchings are products of ignorance and cowardice. The commission's investigators did find that the "probable participants" in mobs were "poorly educated, propertyless, and irresponsible, often unemployed and sometimes with court records."

The commission supports a statement which The Telegraph has made year in and year out: most of the lynchings can be prevented if officers of the law have the courage to do it. We have said repeatedly that cowardice of sheriffs has been responsible for more lynchings than anything else. It takes time for a cowardly mob to work itself into a frenzy; anyone who has ever seen a mob whistling up its courage and developing its leader knows that. An officer who has the backbone to act in the meantime can prevent a lynching. Most of them are either cowardly or indifferent to the fate of the prisoner.

The commission has done a useful service. Its report ought to be put into as many hands as possible, particularly in the South, which has the claim to 97 per cent of the lynchings in this country. The commission's report is a distinct contribution to the advance out of barbarism which we have been making in the past decade.

Lynchings-1931
&
Federal Council of Churches.

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LIST RELEASED

Norfolk Journal and Guide

Only Five States Have Never Had A Lynching

4-11-31

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The ninth annual Honor Roll, showing states free from lynching in the year 1930, has just been announced by the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council Churches of Christ in America with headquarters here at 105 East 22nd Street.

Norfolk, Va.

The record shows that lynchings took place in nine states as compared with five states in 1929. The number of victims was twenty-one during 1930, more than double the number of the previous year. Of the twenty-one persons lynched, one was white and twenty were Negroes. (The N.A.A.C.P. reported 25 in 1930, white and colored.)

Six states which have been on the Honor Roll because free of lynching in former years, lost their rating because of lynchings in 1930. These states were Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, free of lynching since 1927; North Carolina free since 1921; Oklahoma free since 1926; and Indiana which had not had a lynching since 1908.

Kentucky and Tennessee, which lost their places on the Roll in 1929, have regained them by having no lynching record in 1930.

Analysis of Figures

"An analysis of the figures shows that last year's spread of the evil was similar to the re-actions that took place in 1924 and 1926. The general trend since 1922 has been toward a fewer number of victims in a smaller number of states and a larger number of cases of lynchings prevented, of which there were forty in 1930," said Dr. George E. Haynes,secretary of the Commission on Race Relations. "This indicates," he continues, "that vigor on the part of officers of the law and an aroused public conscience can make America a lynchless land. To free cur territory from the sway of the mob is a most vital challenge to all adherents of the churches and to all patriotic citizens."

The Honor Roll of states free of lynching in 1930, as kept by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is as follows:

States that NEVER had a recorded lynching:

Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. 5

States that have no record of a lynching since 1886:

Maine and New Jersey 2

States that have no record of a lynching during the past twenty-five years:

Delaware and Wisconsin 2

States that have no record of a lynching during the past twenty years:

Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, South Dakota 4

States that have no record of a lynching the past fifteen years:

Idaho, Maryland, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania 5

States that have no record of a lynching the past ten years:

Arizona, Montana, New York, Wyoming 4

States that have no record of a lynching the past five years:

California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Washington, West Virginia 8

States that have no record of a lynching the for the past two years:

Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Utah, Virginia 7

States that have no record of a lynching during 1930:

Kentucky, Tennessee 2

Total states free fo lynchings in 1931 39

States still having lynching in 1930.. 9

Total number of lynchings in 1930..21

Total number of lynchings in 1929..10

Total states free of lynching in 1929.43

Missouri and North Dakota that appear on the Honor Roll for 1930, lost their places the first month of this year.

Federal Council Gives Lynch Figures

NEW YORK, April 9.—The ninth annual honor roll, showing states free from lynching in the year 1930, has just been announced by the commission on race relations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 105 E. 22d St. The record shows that lynchings took place in nine states as compared with five states in 1929.

The number of victims was 21 during 1930, more than double the number of the previous year. Of the 21 persons lynched only one was white.

Six states which have been on the honor roll because free of lynching in former years, lost their rating because of lynchings in 1930. These states were Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, free of lynching since 1927; North Carolina, free since 1921; Oklahoma, free since 1926, and Indiana which had not had a lynching since 1908. Kentucky and Tennessee, which lost their places on the roll in 1929, have regained them by having no lynching record in 1930.

4-11-31

"An analysis of the figures show that last year's spread of the evil was similar to the reactions that took place in 1924 and 1926. The general trend since 1922 has been toward a fewer number of victims in a smaller numbr of states and a larger number of cases of lynchings prevented, of which there were 40 in 1930," said George E. Haynes, secretary of the commission on race relations. "This indicates," he continues, "that vigor on the part of officers of the law and an aroused public conscience can make America a lynchless land. To free our territory from the sway of the mob is a most vital challenge to all adherents of the churches and to all patriotic citizens."

Chicago Bee

The honor roll of states free of lynching in 1930, as kept by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, is as follows:

States that never had a recorded lynching: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, five. States that have no record of a lynching since 1886: Maine and New Jersey, two. States that have no record of a lynching during the past 25 years: Delaware and Wisconsin, two. States that have no record of a lynching during the past 20 years: Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, South Dakota, four. States that have no record of a lynching the past 15 years: Idaho, Maryland, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, five. States that have no record of a lynching the past 10 years: Arizona, Montana, New York, Wyoming, four. States that have no record of a lynching the past five years: California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Washington, West Virginia, eight. States that have no record of a lynching for the past two years: Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Utah, Virginia, seven. States that have no record of a lynching during 1930: Kentucky and Tennessee, two. Total states free of lynching in 1930, 39. States still having lynching in 1930, nine. Total number of lynchings in 1930, 21. Total number of lynchings in 1920, 10. Total states free of lynching in 1929, 43.

Missouri and North Dakota, that appear on the honor roll for 1930, lost their places the first month of this year.

The total of 21 lynchings for 1930 as given by the Federal Council of Churches is nine less than the number arrived at by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People and four less than the Tuskegee figure, the latter of which gave 25 as the correct number. Because of the methods of concealing facts about lynchings in the South it is difficult to keep an accurate score in the lynch league. Every year dozens of persons are murdered in cold blood by individual whites in the South while the "mob" looks on. This is not considered a lynching from the news point of view, therefore is not listed as such.

Another favorite method of lynching is the "posse," which is merely an organized body of southerners bent upon killing its victim. Other men who disappear from their homes, their bodies to be found in lagoons and swamps, are lynch victims, but are not listed as such by the various agencies.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE
APR 17 1931

FREE OF LYNCHINGS FOR TWO SUCCESSIVE YEARS.

The "honor roll" prepared each year by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America shows Arkansas free of lynchings for two successive years, 1929 and 1930. Since the number of lynchings last year in the country as a whole was more than double the number of the previous year, it is all the more creditable to Arkansas that the record was kept clean.

It is deplorable that after mob executions had been held down to 10 cases in five states in 1929, nine states and 21 victims should have been involved last year. But somewhat offsetting the wider spread and more frequent occurrence is the fact that during 1930 no less than 40 threatened lynchings were averted. This testifies alike to vigor and courage on the part of peace officers, and to a healthy state of public opinion in this matter. The growth of this controlling opinion should be fostered in every feasible way, for as the Federal Council truly puts it, to free American communities from lynching mobs is a vital challenge to all church people and all patriotic citizens.

That unceasing effort and vigilance for the repression of lynchings are necessary is emphasized by the experience of North Dakota in the first month of this year. The action of a North Dakota mob in inflicting summary punishment on the perpetrator of a murder last January came at the end of a period of 15 years during which no lynching had been reported from that state.

Lynchings-1931
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3331

Communistic Agitation In Scottsboro Cases Impair Chance of Victory - White

Topeka Plaindealer
8-21-31
Topeka, Kans.

Threats Against Life Of Governor And Other Unethical Acts Add to Ill-feeling

New York, Aug. 11—"So much hostility and race hatred have been created by threats against the lives of the Governor and other Alabama officials," was the report of Walter White, who returned today from Alabama, "that the task of saving the lives of the eight boys sentenced to death at Scottsboro is today infinitely more difficult to combat than originally.

"The minds of some of the parents and relatives of the boys have been so poisoned against every organization and individual not Communist that they are unable under present circumstances to realize the grave danger in which these threats are placing the boys.

"For example, I learned in Alabama that one of the mothers was brought to Kilby Prison recently by Communist agents and that she stood in foyer of the prison with her arms akimbo and shouted, 'I just wish I could get my hands on this Walter White; I'd wring his neck for trying to get my boy electrocuted.' This poor mother and some of the others have been convinced by the Communists that the N. A. A. C. P.'s business is that of getting Negroes electrocuted instead of saving them.

"Communist agitation is particularly bad for Negroes in Alabama at this juncture. There is grave unemployment in the steel industry around Birmingham, operators at two more blast furnaces having recently ceased. While I was in Alabama news came of a serious crisis in the matter of cotton prices, which carried the price of cotton to the lowest figure it has been in a generation. So serious is this situation that the Federal Farm Board wired, while I was in Alabama, to the governors of fourteen cotton-raising states urging that four million bales of cotton now being grown be abandoned to avert disaster. As so large a percentage of the cotton-raising farmers are Negroes, this means a serious crisis this fall; and agitation such as the Communists are carrying on, which for the present at least can do nothing but still further imperil the economic and other interests of the Negro, has created a grave condition which cannot but grow worse."

Mr. White visited the eight defendants at Kilby Prison. He was accompanied by Dr. G. Lake Imes of Tuskegee, representing Interracial Commission. Dr. Imes pointed out to the boys that their only hope of being saved from the electric chair was through Legal procedure; that eventually it may be necessary to appeal to the Governor of Alabama for Clemency. Dr. Imes, in an eloquent and forceful presentation pointed out that if 'empty threats against the life of the Governor of Alabama continued hope might thereby be destroyed that he would be willing to act favorably upon petition for clemency. Dr. Imes further impressed upon the eight defendants the situation at Gastonia, North Carolina, where Communists had gone into that section ostensibly to help organize the mill workers and get better living conditions for them, but as a result of their agitation, which was the same as is being used in the Scottsboro Cases, the only outcome was the sentencing to prison of some of the mill workers and of some of the Communists who had escaped prison only by jumping bail and fleeing the country. "And since this, "declared Dr. Imes, "Communists have not been heard of in N. Carolina, and the same thing will happen here in Alabama after your lives have been sacrificed if this kind of agitation is continued."

Mr. Alexander of the Interracial Commission pointed out that if he were on trial in Alabama he would want an Alabama law firm of high standing to represent him, a firm of the calibre of Messrs. Fort, Beddow and Ray, whom the N. A. A. C. P. has retained; that he would not want to trust his life in an Alabama court to outside lawyers who have no standing in the courts of that state. It was revealed for the first time that the troops which prevented a lynching at Scottsboro were sent there at the instance of the Interracial Commission.

Mr. White pointed out to the boys that the N. A. A. C. P. is interested in their cases because the Association feels that they are innocent and did not have a fair trial at Scottsboro, and that of even greater importance than the boys themselves is the fact that if eight Negroes, whatever the circumstances, can be unjustly treated because of their color, the rights of all Negroes are thereby in danger. Mr. White made it clear that the N. A. A. C. P. is an organization working under the federal constitution and laws and state constitutions and laws; that on the other hand the Communists are frankly working to overthrow the United States Government and to establish Communism and that an organization with such aims could not possibly defend them successfully; that the real object of the Communists in this case is to make propaganda. Mr. White then explained to the boys the legal procedure in their cases, pointing out that if the threats of the Communists continue and if the boys go into court represented by the Communists there will be such bitterness against them in the minds of any jury in Alabama that no matter what the facts are they will be found guilty and sent to the electric chair. He concluded by saying, "Whether all of you want the N. A. A. C. P. to defend you or not, the N. A. A. C. P. is going to defend those who want it to defend them and is going to stand by them to the limit."

Following this talk, four of the boys, Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Willie Robinson and Ozie Powers, reiterated their desire to be defended solely by the N. A. A. C. P. Heywood Patterson, Eugene Williams, Andy Wright and Olean Montgomery stated that their parents wished them to stay with the International Labor Defense. As the party was leaving prison these four gathered around Mr. White an pleaded with him to do every thing in his power to convinc heir parents that they wante o be defended by the N. A. A C. P. They asked that their pa ents be placed in full posses on of the facts so that the would join with them in th lesire. This Mr. White prom ed again to do.

On arriving in Alabama M White found that the emine aw firm of Fort, Beddow a Ray was on the point of lea ing the cases, due to the fa of Communist propaganda o some of the boys. It was repo ed to Mr. White that wh Mr. Roderick Beddow recent visited the prison, one of th boys said to him that he a he N. A. A. C. P. were "too of the captalists" and were tr ng to get the boys electrocute howing that the boys had bee nisled by the untrue stori which had been told them.

After a lengthy conferen with all the members of th firm, in which Mr. White pointed out the larger significanc of these cases, the attorneys greed to continue in them.

The Communist agitatio has resulted in a number o serious situations exceedingly harmful to colored people. Sev- homes in Birmingham of two eral white men broke into the Negroes alleged to be Communists and shot the two Negroes. The murder of the daughter of prominent Birmingham at- orney and the wounding of wo other girls allegedly by a Negro resulted in so tense a ituation that for a time Bir- ningham expected a lynching.

ctive work by local agencies nd especially by the Press in rging that the citizens of Birmingham, white and colored, disregard the wild rumors which were being circulated and remain calm resulted in easing the situation.

"There is much legitimate ground for protest by Alabama Negroes. Firm, manly protest and uncompromising opposition to things from which Negroes have been suffering' "declared Mr White, "ought and nust be continued. Had the Communists confirmed themselves in these Scottsboro Cases to legal action and to focusing public attention on the cases, they could have done a nost excellent job and helped immeasurably, but in going beyond this and engaging in wild threats they have succeeded in creating a situation so tense that only the most sane and careful action can prevent its being turned into what may be disaster for the Negroes of Alabama and of the South and of the country.

"The danger of the Communist's effort is to be seen n the fact that the few white eople of Alabama who are working quietly but faithfully toward helping the boys secure a new trial belong to other than the working class. One of those who is most active in this effort is a wealthy white man of the state. On the other hand. those who are most determined to have the boys executed are of the working class, who contituted the mob of 10,000 around the courthouse at Scottsboro and who were all ready or a lynching in Birmingham ast week.

"I found in Alabama that orces had been industriously t work trying to spread the umor that the N. A. A. C. P. ad abandoned the cases. This s a most shameful falsehood. The N. A. A. C. P. is determined to follow the course it has lways followed, namely, to ignore all difficulties and fight to the bitter end to save the lives of the boys, whom we believes to be innocent.

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4 SCOTTSBORO VICTIMS CHASE NAACP LAWYERS

[illegible] 8-22-31
Baltimore Md

NEW YORK—Upon his arrival in New York from Scottsboro, Alabama, Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., declared that he found upon his arrival there the eminent law firm of Fort, Beddow and Ray was on the point of leaving the cases, due to the effect of Communist propaganda on some of the boys.

It was reported to Mr. White that when Mr. Roderick Beddow recently visited the prison, one of the boys said to him that he and the N.A.A.C.P. were "tools of the capitalists," and were trying to get the boys electrocuted, showing that the boys had been misled by the untrue stories which had been told them. They attempted to drive the N.A.A.C.P. lawyers away.

After a lengthy conference with all the members of the firm, in which Mr. White pointed out the larger significance of these cases, the attorneys agreed to continue in them.

"So much hostility and race hatred have been created by threats against the lives of the Governor and other Alabama officials," reported Mr. White, "that the task of saving the lives of the eight boys sentenced to death is today infinitely more difficult than originally.

Wanted to Get Him

"The minds of some of the parents and relatives of the boys have been so poisoned against every organization and individual not Communist that they are unable under present circumstances to realize the grave danger in which these threats are placing the boys.

"For example, I learned in Alabama that one of the mothers was brought to Kilby prison recently by Communist agents and that she stood in the foyer of the prison with her arms akimbo and shouted, 'I just wish I could get my hands on this Walter White; I'd wring his neck for trying to get my boy electrocuted.' This poor mother and some of the others have been convinced by the Communists that the N.A.A.C.P.'s business is that of getting colored people electrocuted instead of saving them.

"Communist agitation is particularly bad for colored people in Alabama at this juncture. There is grave unemployment in the steel industry around Birmingham, operations at two more blast furnaces having recently ceased. While I was in Alabama news came of a serious crisis in the matter of cotton prices, which carried the price of cotton to the lowest figure it has been in a generation.

"So serious is this situation that the Federal Farm Board wired, while I was in Alabama, to the governors of fourteen cotton-raising states urging that four million bales of cotton now being grown be abandoned to avert disaster. As so large a percentage of the cotton-raising farmers are colored this means a serious crisis this fall; and agitation such as the Communists are carrying on, which for the present at least can do nothing but still further imperil the economic and other interests of the race, has created a grave condition which cannot but grow worse."

Dr. Imes Visits

Mr. White visited the eight defendants at Kilby Prison. He was accompanied by Dr. G. Lake Imes, of Tuskegee, representing Tuskegee Institute and Doctor Moton and by Dr. Will W. Alexander, of the Interracial Commission. Doctor Imes pointed out to the boys that their only hope of being saved from the electric chair was through legal procedure; that eventually it may be necessary to appeal to the Governor of Alabama for clemency.

Doctor Imes, in an eloquent and forceful presentation pointed out that if empty threats against the life of the Governor of Alabama continued, hope might thereby be destroyed, that he would be willing to act favorably upon petition for clemency.

Doctor Imes further impressed upon the eight defendants, the situation at Gastonia, N.C., where Communists had gone into that section ostensibly to help organize the mill workers and get better living conditions for them, but as a result of their agitation, which was the same as is being used in the Scottsboro cases, the only outcome was the sentencing to prison of the white mill workers, and of some of the Communists who had escaped prison only by jumping bail and fleeing the country.

"And since this," declared Doctor Imes, "Communists have not been heard of in North Carolina, and the same thing will happen here in Alabama after your boys have been sacrificed if this kind of agitation is continued."

Troops Requested by Commission

Mr. Alexander of the Interracial Commission pointed out that if he were on trial in Alabama he would want an Alabama law firm of high standing to represent him—a firm of the calibre of Messrs. Fort, Beddow and Ray, whom the N.A.A.C.P. has retained; that he would not want to trust his life in an Alabama court to outside lawyers who have no standing in the courts of that state. It was revealed for the first time that the troops which prevented a lynching at Scottsboro were sent there at the instance of the Interracial Commission.

Want to be Saved

Following this talk, four of the boys — Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Willie Robinson and Ozie Powers—reiterated their desire to be defended solely by the N.A.A.C.P. Heywood Patterson, Eugene Williams, Andy Wright and Olean Montgomery stated that their parents wished them to stay with the International Labor Defense.

As the party was leaving the prison, these four gathered around Mr. White and pleaded with him to do everything in his power to convince their parents that they wanted to be defended by the N.A.A.C.P. They asked that their parents be placed in full possession of the facts so that they would join with them in this desire. This Mr. White promised again to do.

DOTHAN, ALA.
EAGLE

AUG 9 1931

LADY ASTOR BUTTS IN

Says Arthur Brisbane:

> Lady Astor expressed deep horror at the proposed hanging of eight young Negroes in Alabama, one of them only 14 years old, on a charge of assaulting white women that were stealing rides in a freight train with the Negroes.
>
> The fact that Lady Astor is a Southern woman adds to the importance of her protest.

On the contrary, the fact that Lady Astor is now a citizen of England, living more than 3,000 miles from Alabama and having nothing but second-handed and distorted information concerning these Negroes and their crime should reduce to insignificance any statement she may make about the case. Incidentally, she is the same Lady Astor who recently paid a brief visit to Russia and emerged endorsing Sovietism.

The people of Alabama are thoroughly sick and tired of the half-baked utterances that the conviction of these Negro fiends have evoked from agitators, Communists, literati and I. W. W.'s in many parts of this country and Europe

The only outrages committed in this case were the outrage against the two girls and the outrage against the State of Alabama by its long-haired critics. The Negroes were convicted of a crime that carries the death penalty in this State. Eight of them, full grown and responsible, were sentenced to die. The ninth, a 14-year-old boy, has not been sentenced. There was a time, not many years ago, when all would have been promptly lynched. To the credit of enlightened citizenship they were duly tried and convicted.

Brisbane is a responsible citizen; so is Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Lady Astor and Einstein. If they aren't bright enough to acquire undisputed facts before expressing an opinion in such a matter, then they are not bright enough to know that every word they utter on the subject merely serves to solidify the determination of Alabama to put the brutes to death for their crime. They deserve it, and they will get it.

Lynchings-1931

Alabama

3332

Legal Punishment for Rape

Scottsboro, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, May 21, 1931

EYES OF NATION ON SCOTTSBORO

As predicted by The Sentinel at the very beginning the "Scottsboro negro case" is spreading over the entire country by aid of the Reds, or Communists, and misinformed people who are honestly believing the propaganda now being carried forward.

Every day our officials, from Governor on down, are receiving telegrams and letters protesting the electrication of the eight "negro children" on frame up charges of rape. Agents and solicitors are combing the country for funds under pretense that the money is for the defense of these "negro children" and the most vicious literature imaginable is being circulated against our people and the court and its verdict. These protests are in main part from Communist or Red sources and they come in the spirit of threat rather than a plea. Among those entering into the proposition are some nationally known authors and "social uplifters."

The interference of these outsiders and their threats and protests of "legal lynching" will have little or no bearing on the outcome of the case of the negroes. The appeals of the eight negroes already sentenced are now matters out of the hands of local courts and local people. In the trial of these negroes Judge Hawkins seemed to go to extremes in giving them every comfort the law could afford and surrounding them with the proper protection as a matter of precaution and not because the citizenship indicated "justice outside the law." The case is now assuming many angles and with all these angles one thing is outstanding and it is the general opinion of our people that these negroes were not done an injustice and that the law took its proper and just course in the case.

The lawyers for the negroes in trying to get a new trial are all mixed up and are having a heated newspaper controversy in the Chattanooga papers. Stephen Roddy of Chattanooga who was employed first in the case by negro organizations in Chattanooga, is having a "round" with ex-Attorney General Chamlee, of Chattanooga, who is in the case at the instigation and on the pay of the International Labor Defense, or better known "Reds." Mr. Roddy claims Mr. Chamlee is hurting the case and that he (Mr. Roddy) is against the Reds and will have nothing to do with them. Mr. Chamlee says he is the proper one to defend the negroes and has been employed to look after their interests. So there it goes. Both lawyers, we are informed, are filing papers in the case and just who will be recognized as the head of the defense remains to be determined. One mistaken idea of some people is that the Reds are hurting the negroes' case. Under other circumstances this might be true, but those who are acquainted with the real facts of the case know that Reds or no one else can "hurt" the case. The Reds are capitalizing it for publicity and gain. That is all. The eight negroes are a long way from the "immediate release" demanded by the Reds—or anybody else.

It has appeared impossible for this case to get a decent viewpoint in the press of the country, outside three or four Southern newspapers, We are in a place that tests our fibre—if the negroes should be turned loose we would be condemned as cowardly assassins who white-eyed on the murder; if the negroes die, we are murderers of little "innocent children." So the only thing we can think of appropriate for the present is to continue to do our duty as we see it and if the rest of the world does not like it and decides to take the matter over, to invite them to go to hell.

DOTHAN, ALA.
EAGLE

MAY 26 1931

CIVILIZATION IN JACKSON

Eight of the ten Negroes charged with criminally assaulting two white girls aboard a freight train were tried in Scottsboro and sentenced to die. This has displeased the Negroes of Harlem and certain more or less prominent radicals in the East, including Theodore Dreiser. The effect of this has been to solidify Alabama public opinion.

During the trial some stories came out of Scottsboro that were distorted and untrue. Editor P. W. Campbell in his Jackson County Sentinel, of Scottsboro, burlesques some of this "news:"

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., Any time (by BS)—The Scottsboro "Kill a Nigger Club" reported an off week at the regular meeting today. Only 41 negroes were shot last week and it was suggested that marksmanship practice should be taken up immediately so that the weekly bag could be improved. The club reported that negroes were getting scarce and becoming hard to find as so many had been killed off that some sort of law should be passed to place a closed season on them for a while. The sheriff and officials were present at the meeting and offered assistance to the club at any time they might want it. The meeting closed by singing the club's theme song, "Bye Bye Blackbird."

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Mayor Snodgrass and the City Council recently contracted with Major Al Capone of the Chicago Army, well known anatomy decorater and cemetery builder ,to come to Scottsboro to take charge of "Clean Up Week." Maj. Capone arrived yesterday but was afraid to get out and look the situation over after seeing two mountain boys playfully parting each other's hair with rifle shots at a distance of 400 yards from muleback and then joking about it over a cool glass of Coca-Cola. When interviewed by the editor at the depot, Maj. Capone said: "There are advantages in both places, Chicago and Jackson County. In Chicago we never know who we are going to kill—down here you just don't give a damn! Chicago is much more preferable, Mr. Campbell, come up to see me some time and we'll show you 'the works'."

• • •

The Scottsboro City Beautiful Club at a meeting Monday sent a vigorous protest to the Lynchers Club against the using of our beautiful maple trees for hanging purposes. The club in its protest says that the practice is becoming so common that our stately maples now resemble weeping willows because of the weight being hung upon them. The Lynchers replied since the telephone company put in the cable system and eliminated cross arms on the poles, that maples appear the logical thing, but that they would be careful next time to weight them down evenly all around so as not to destroy the contour of the tree.

• • •

Scottsboro's third big tombstone factory opened last month. It is equipped with an automatic carving machine which cuts the word "KILLED" into a stone in seven and a half minutes. This job formerly took two days hand labor of an expert carver. However, all is not gold that glitters, for last week a "natural death" order came in and the manager of the factory had to come up to the library to find how to spell "DIED."

• • •

Superintendent of Education J. F. Hodges states that Jackson County has made splendid progress in the different lines of education the past session. He says that the primary grades in machine gun operation and rifle shooting have been conducted in such a manner of high efficiency that only 16 teachers were accidentally killed during the session and these were teachers who were tired of their jobs, anyway. He says the senior classes in poison gas and tank warfare are graduating with honors and should be of great assistance in keeping our dear homeland before the American public. Superintendent Hodges said one of the most fascinating courses being taught this year is "Corrupt Practice, Its Usages and Benefits." This is a preliminary political course and teaches the Tennessee method of "displacement without consequence." Two of the graduates from this course are now preparing for careers in Tammany Hall or to study under Mr. Vare's school in Philly.

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Little Willie Hinkle, who lives over in North Scottsboro, while playing with his pa's machine gun Monday afternoon let the thing go off five or six hundred times, and shot out nearly every window pane in that part of town. Luckily, no one was killed, being as most of the grown people were down at the city hall voting on whether murder should be a misdemeanor or just the regular $2.75 fine like speeding. Old Lady Gandy, who is past 90, was in bed next door to the Hinkle home and was in direct line of fire. She said she kept noticing something kind of stinging her back but thought it was some of her greatgrandchildren shooting pins at her. After a while she turned over and found the bed half full of bullets that had stacked up against her. When interviewed by the editor of The Sentinel, she said: "It sure was lucky my skin was tough like that, for it most likely saved my life from them machine gun bullets. My skin has always been sorter tough. When I was a very young girl my folks moved into Scottsboro community when there wasn't anything here but Indians and tax collectors. The Indians captured me and the Big Chief tried to cut my throat with his knife but it could not even break my skin. When I recovered from my fainting spell I bit off both his ears, kicked him in the slats and in the rear of the slats, too, stripped off his robe of horsefeathers, and told him to travel and travel fast. He took his tribe and lit for Oklahomey and we were never bothered with Indians any more . There's the robe of horsefeathers hanging up there. Mr. Campbell ,take a look at it."

• • •

My friend, Harold Coffey, must cut one thing out of his writings! I will not have Sentinel readers referred to as "Gentle Reader!" Our readers are not gentle, they have never been gentle. They are good old rough and tumble, red blooded American men, women and children who fight before they get up, fight at breakfast, fight at dinner and fight at supper—and love it! "Gentle readers" could not stand this paper at all! It would be just like scratching their backs with a curry-comb. No, Harold, the readers are not gentle any more! They're hard and ready to call the editor names and 90 per cent of them could do just as well as he could if they would just try. There may be gentle readers in Birmingham down where you live but up here the only gentle critter is the rabbit—and some dog eats him up before the summer is over.

[illegible] Ala., Standard
Thursday, May 28, 1931

Civilization in Jackson

Eight of the ten Negroes charged with criminally assaulting two white girls aboard a freight train were tried in Scottsboro and sentenced to die. This has displeased the Negroes of Harlem and certain more or less prominent radicals in the East, including Theodore Dreiser. The effect of this has been to solidify Alabama public opinion.

During the trial some stories came out of Scottsboro that were distorted and untrue. Editor P. W. Campbell in his Jackson County Sentinel, of Scottsboro, burlesques some of this "news":

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., Any time (by BS)—The Scottsboro "Kill a Nigger Club" reported an off week at the regular meeting to-day. Only 41 Negroes were shot last week and it was suggested that marksmanship practice should be taken up immediately so that the weekly bag could be improved. The club reported that Negroes were getting scarce and becoming hard to find as so many had been killed off that some sort of law should be passed to place a closed season on them for a while. The sheriff and officials were present at the meeting and offered assistance to the club at any time they might want it. The meeting closed by singing the club's theme son, "Bye Bye Blackbird."

* * * *

Mayor Snodgrass and the City Council recently contracted with Major Al Capone of the Chicago Army, well known anatomy decorator and cemetery builder, to come to Scottsboro to take charge of "Clean Up Week." Maj Capone arrived yesterday but was afraid to get out and look the situation over after seeing two mountain boys playfully parting each other's hair with rifle shots at a distance of 400 yards from muleback and then joking about it over a cool Coca-Cola. When interviewed by the editor at the depot, Maj. Capone said: "There are advantages in both places, Chicago and Jackson County. In Chicago we never know who we are going to kill—down here you just don't give a damn! Chicago is much more preferable, Mr. Campbell, come up to see me some time and we'll show you 'the works.'"

* * * *

The Scottsboro City Beautiful Club at a meeting Monday sent a vigorous protest to the Lynchers Club against the using of our beautiful maple trees for hanging purposes. The club in its protest says that the practice is becoming so common that our stately maples now resemble weeping willows because of the weight being hung upon them. The Lynchers replied since the telephone company put in the cable system and eliminated cross arms on the poles, that maples appear the logical thing, but that they would be careful next time to weight them down evenly all around so as not to destroy the contour of the tree.

* * * *

Scottsboro's third big tombstone factory opened last month. It is equipped with an automatic carving machine which cuts the word "KILLED" into a stone in seven and a half minutes. This job formerly took two days hand labor of an expert carver. However, all is not gold that glitters, for last week a "natural death" order came in and the manager of the factory had to come up to the library to find how to spell "DIED."

Negro Gets Death For Attack On Girl

Advertiser
6-11-31
Montgomery
Ala.

MOBILE, ALA., June 10.—(AP)—Charlie Williams, 29-year-old negro, was sentenced tonight to die in the electric chair for attacking a six-year-old white girl as she and companions were returning from school. After a Circuit Court jury returned a verdict of guilty with electrocution as punishment, Presiding Judge Claude A. Grayson fixed July 17 as time for execution.

The verdict was returned 34 minutes after completion of the Judge's charge to the jury. It followed a full day of presentation of evidence and arguments, after Judge Grayson had overruled a motion for continuance on the ground a material witness for the defendant was out of the city.

Defense attorneys were named by the court when the negro appeared at arraignment without counsel, amended their plea of not guilty by a contention that Williams was "not guilty by reason of insanity."

Although there were no signs of violence or demonstration Judge Grayson ordered deputies to search all spectators including members of the jury. Sheriff's deputies and police officers were on guard in the courtroom.

300,000 Germans Cable Objections To Sentences Of Eight Negro Attackers

Advertiser
Montgomery
Ala.
7-7-31

Three hundred thousand members of the proletarian organization of Germany demand the release of the eight negroes now confined in Kilby Prison, who are under sentence of death for criminally assaulting two young white women in Jackson County last Spring, Gov. Miller was informed in a cablegram received yesterday from Berlin.

The message, bearing the date of July 4—Independence Day in the United States—was written in German and transmitted in that language. Translated by Miss Mary England, a member of the State Department of Education staff, at the request of Dr. A. F. Harman, State Superintendent of Education, to whom it was referred by the executive department for interpretation, it states, literally:

"Three hundred thousand members of proletarian organization in Germany perceive the death sentence against negro youths as an unquenchable civilization disgrace. Raise flaming protest. Demand setting free." It was signed with a combination of German words which mean, it seems, an "organization for working men."

Gov. Miller had the message filed with other communications received from various quarters regarding the cases of the negroes convicted at Scottsboro.

All of the condemned men have taken appeals to the Supreme Court of Alabama where they are now pending. With the high court at present in recess, it will be several months at least before these appeals can be acted upon.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

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MONTGOMERY, ALA
ADVERTISER

JUL 24 1931

TO THOSE WHO ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT ALABAMA'S SENSE OF JUSTICE

To those anxious friends of justice who are sincerely exercised about the possible fate of the nine Alabama Negroes now under sentence of death on a charge of criminal assault, let this be said: From the moment of their apprehension till now the Negroes have been under the protection of the laws of Alabama, they have been in the hands of the courts, and they will continue in the hands of the courts until their fate is finally determined. They have appealed to the Supreme Court and it will be January before we shall know whether the men are to have a new trial or whether the original sentence shall be enforced.

In the meantime the situation presents its difficulties. Ordinarily there is no popular debate over the merits of a case pending before the Supreme Court. It is hardly proper, especially in criminal cases, for partisans to argue on the stump and in the press the merits of the issue presented to the court. Under ordinary circumstances there would have been no discussion of the "Scottsboro case," but there is nothing ordinary about the present circumstances. The Supreme Court of Alabama is receiving instructions, none too politely worded, as to what it shall do with reference to these nine Negroes. At least that is the effect of all of the speeches, editorials and telegrams that have been written "protesting against the legal lynching" of these men, even though most of these have been aimed at Governor Miller, due to the fact that the agitators have looked upon the Governor as a sort of court of last resort. Alabama newspapers have thought it necessary to reply to criticisms of their State which they believed to be unjust.

Now the Supreme Court of Alabama is and has always been a conservative, honorable body of men. No tradition of cruelty and callousness tarnishes its name. There has never been a scandal which in- [illegible] the name of the court.

The Supreme Court of Alabama as it stands is morally and intellectually capable of deciding the appeal of the nine Negroes without prejudice or indifference to elementary human rights. We believe these nine Negroes can trust the Supreme Court to be as fair to them as it would be to nine white men. We believe they can trust Governor Miller, when and if their case comes finally under his official notice, to be as fair to them as to nine white men.

We do not believe that these Negroes have been the victims of injustice at any point since their arrest. We do not believe that any of their rights will be jeopardized between now and the end of their sordid story.

The Advertiser satisfied itself at the time of the trial that Alabama had deported itself with dignity, self-restraint and as a State having a sense of justice and love of law and order, that the men were guilty as charged and that there was no occasion for popular agitation about miscarriage of justice, etc. If it had been in any doubt about the matter it would have gladly led the pack in demanding a new deal for the condemned men.

If, however, the Supreme Court, after a careful painstaking review of all the facts and circumstances, concludes that the men are entitled to a new trial, The Advertiser will be satisfied with the decision. In saying this we believe we speak for other newspapers and the leaders of opinion generally in Alabama.

The point we wish to enforce is that nine supposedly friendless Negroes—they are so pictured by their noisy champions—have friends not only on the Supreme bench, not only in the Governor's office but among the thoughtful, responsible citizens of Alabama generally.

We do not believe that these men have been wronged, but if it turns out that we are in error, we believe the wrong will be righted by the honorable gentlemen on whom rests the responsibility of making the final decision.

This editorial is directed at the Dreisers, the Steffanses, the Einsteins, the New York World-Telegrams, The Nation and other sensitive "liberals" who have questioned whether Alabama is capable of acting justly in this instance. We should like for them to feel reassured and to act a little more sensibly than they have acted to date. Let them cease attacking a State on the ground that it is about to "lynch" nine men, and remember that Alabamians passed up a real opportunity to lynch them at the time of their capture preferring to have them tried in an orderly, decent manner as befits a civilized people.

Saturday, July 18, 1931

Real Martyrs

A LOT of stuff has been written and a lot of "demonstrations" have been staged in various parts of the world to prove that the eight Negroes sentenced to die for having attacked two white girls near Scottsboro, Alabama, are "martyrs." Communists declare that they are being "sacrificed on the altar of capitalism" and certain negrophile organizations contend that they are being railroaded "because the southern people just naturally hate niggers."

The Evening News is not at all convinced that these eight men are martyrs. However, the gun-fight near Camp Hill, Alabama, which was a direct result of the Scottsboro case, did provide some genuine martyrs. The man who was killed and the others who were wounded in this fight between whites and Negroes are martyrs to folly.

It is possible that the two girls who told the Scottsboro court that the eight Negroes raped them were lying and that the prisoners are innocent. Such things have happened. It may be true that the trial was affected by a public sentiment aroused against the defendants. That is not an unknown situation in the South. If there is reason to believe that either or both these things are true, the condemned men have recourse to appeal. Their case is now before the Supreme court of Alabama. The governor of Alabama is a former member of a high tribunal of that state and is thoroughly familiar with legal machinery, its safeguards, its shortcomings and its loopholes. The men now have able and active counsel, even if—as has been charged—they did not have such protection at the Scottsboro trial. It is highly improbable that a frame-up, if one existed, would stand the scrutiny of the appellate courts and review by a governor skilled in the law and justice.

The communistic and "race justice" groups which are agitating for the release of the eight, however, are not satisfied with the normal protection. They have set out to obscure the issues and the evidence by inflammatory demonstrations in Alabama, in other states and even in countries as remote as Russia, Argentina and Germany. What should have been a simple matter of examining evidence and legal processes has been turned into a typical "red" sideshow.

This stupidly destructive campaign came to a climax in Tallapoosa, county, Alabama, Thursday night, when a crowd of Negroes assembled under Communistic auspices to "demand" that the governor of Alabama free the eight prisoners. The meeting resulted in a battle between sheriff's deputies and the Negroes, in which one man was killed and several wounded.

It is no secret that a Negro often doesn't have an even chance with a white man in the courts of this country. But it is true that efforts are being made, with some degree of success, to lessen as speedily as possible the prejudice and inter-racial resentment that creates this injustice. Inflaming that prejudice and resentment into hatred and violence is a mighty poor way to bring about equal justice in the courts and elsewhere.

The "reds" who incited that Camp Hill battle have merely made it harder for their eight "symbols of the class war" to get an unbiased hearing. They may make martyrs of them yet; the same sort of martyrs as those who fell at Camp Hill.

DECATUR, ALA.
DAILY

JUL 23 1931

THE BUZZARDS SWARM AGAIN AS "REDS" INVADE THE SOUTH

The trial at Scottsboro, Ala., of a group of young negroes on charges of having attacked two white girls, is not the cause of the present attempt to organize negroes of the South into communist groups. The trial and conviction only provided a convenient opportunity for the immisaries of false prophets to invade Dixie, as their predecessors, the carpet-baggers, did with false doctrines and false hopes.

"The buzzards swarm again" says the Montgomery Advertiser in the caption over one of the finest editorials we have seen regarding the present situation. Beware of these conveyers of various "isms" at so much a membership card. Usually the price of the membership card is the only worthwhile thing about the entire enterprise, and that belongs to the person who sold the card and not to the purchaser thereof.

The Advertiser's splendid editorial follows;

"The white buzzard that swarmed into the afflicted South in the wake of the heroic Union Army, after Appomattox, lit on the shoulders of the negro freedmen and whispered tales of wealth and power into their trusting, gullible ears. While the negroes listened the buzzards fingered their pockets, put dangerous notions into their heads, made countless new enemies for them to contend against, and in the end caused many of them to be slain and many more to be flogged, and deprived all of the full advantages which accrue to those who had the full confidence and sympathy of their friends and neighbors.

"The carpet-bagger buzzards promised the negro forty acres and a mule. He promised him political freedom and power, he promised him all the social privileges which the whites enjoyed. The economic, social and political gap between white and black was to be bridged by a simple laying on of hands—hands which would not be lifted again until they had seized the pennies in the poor negro's pocket and the vote accompanying it, by which vote the carpetbagger would presently put himself in a position to loot everybody, including particularly the whites.

The carpet-bagger loved nobody but himself, he was interested in nobody but himself. He was a callous adventurer out to levy tribute on all who had anything subject to levy. He was particularly ambitious for political power. His opportunity left little to be desired, what with universal poverty, the disfranchisement of the ruling whites now become friendless, the joy of the negro in his new-found freedom, and his natural belief in the benevolence of his deliverers.

"But that is an old story. All who know anything know about it. They know that the greatest misfortune inflicted upon the South after the war was inflicted upon the negro by his fanatical friends in the north and the buzzards that swarmed South to loot him in the moment of his illusory new hope.

"Now the buzzards are swarming again and lighting on negro shoulders to whisper evil words into the somewhat wiser, but still trusting, ear of the black man in the lower economic scale. These buzzards, most of them white, some of them black, finding thousands of negroes, like thousands of whites, in economic despair, are pleading with them to resort to extreme action. The prospective Communist recruit is told that he has nothing to lose, and much to gain, by rising in force against the white man and his property. He is told to seize what he wants at all costs. Hungry and ignorant, he sometimes gains his consent to yield to these blandishments. Even the congenital conservatism of the negro does not always save him from his blunder. And so communist organizers are making some progress here and there in the South. They are getting recruits—

"And with each recruit, if we may believe the dispatches, they seem to be getting $5! Enough to buy corn and corn meal for one negro's family and keep it alive for a month.

"And of course the Communist is beginning to get some of his gullible recruits killed and cause them to kill others. Witness recent unfortunate events in Tallapoosa county.

"These Communist buzzards are inveigling ignorant and foolish negroes to engage in the most hopelessly one-sided struggle imaginable. They haven't a chance in the world to accomplish anything worth while nor to acquire anything worth having. At best they will be looted by unscrupulous organizers, who themselves usually play safe. At worst they will invite death and a new outbreak of ill-will and distrust.

"The alignments, however, are not wholly racial, though primarily they are racial. The fact is that every negro property owner in Alabama has as much at stake in such a contest as this as any white property owner. He is as much hated and would be destroyed as quickly.

"The victims of these miserable buzzards are in need of wise counsel. They should have it made plain to them alike by white and black friends that what they contemplate is folly, that it can lead only to their own downfall and greater misery, and to greater difficulties for their whole race in the South. They should be told that it were better to suffer the ills that now afflict them than to invite greater ills to come.

"They should be told to beware of buzzards which historically have been the negro's greatest enemy!"

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
Friday, July 24, 1931

~~TO~~ THOSE WHO ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT ALABAMA'S SENSE OF JUSTICE

To those anxious friends of justice who are sincerely exercised about the possible fate of the nine Alabama Negroes now under sentence of death on a charge of criminal assault, let this be said: From the moment of their apprehension till now the Negroes have been under the protection of the laws of Alabama, they have been in the hands of the courts, and they will continue in the hands of the courts until their fate is finally determined. They have appealed to the Supreme Court and it will be January before we shall know whether the men are to have a new trial or whether the original sentence shall be enforced.

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Scottsboro, Ala. Sentinel
Thursday, July 23, 1931

CHAMLEE OFF TO HELP NEGRO IN ATTACK CASE

(The Chattanooga Times)

George W. Chamlee, counsel for the International Labor Defense in the cases of nine Negroes convicted at Scottsboro for attacking two white girls, left yesterday for Birmingham and Montgomery to push for a change of venue for Roy Wright, whose case resulted in a mistrial.

Announcement of Attorney Chamlee's departure was made by Lowell Wakefield, secretary of the southern district, International Labor Defense who issued at the same time a statement condemning the killing of a Negro during rioting at Camp Hill, Ala. last week.

Wakefield said that "the killing of Ralph Gray, Negro, by Sheriff J. K Young and his deputies and the probable lynching of four others by landowners' mobs is an effort to drown in blood the struggle of the croppers against starvation.

"Every attempt on the part of Negro and white workers and poor farmers to organize against starvation or against the bosses' terror is met with rope, fagot and shot."

Wakefield announced that lawyers will be sent to Dadeville, Ala., to defend the Negroes held there for shooting Sheriff Young and his chief deputy.

Condemned Negro's Mother On Stump

Advertiser

From Youngstown, Ohio, yesterday came the first intimation that the mother of one of the eight negroes convicted and condemned to death at Scottsboro, for criminally assaulting two young white girls is on a speaking tour making addresses concerning the case of her son and his seven companions.

7-25-31

The information was contained in a telegram to Gov. Miller from Youngstown, signed, "International Labor Defense. H. Robinowitz." The message said 250 "workers of Youngstown" assembled to "hear Mrs. Williams, mother of Eugene, one of Scottsboro nine," vigorously protested action of the Tallapoosa County authorities in putting down the recent disorders there during which the sheriff of the county nearly lost his life and a negro who had wounded the sheriff was shot and killed by members of a posse, when he opened fire on them.

This telegram like many others received demanded the immediate release of the "Scottsboro boys" and "imprisoned share-croppers." The communication was placed in the Governor's office files.

Some time ago, news dispatches from New York, giving an account of a parade staged there as a demonstration on behalf of the Scottsboro assault defendants, told of a negro woman, mother of one of the condemned negroes, marching in the van. The presumption is that this woman and "Mrs. Williams" are one and the same.

Lynchings-1931

Alabama.

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Legal Punishment for Rape.

Nation 4-29-31 New York

EIGHT NEGRO BOYS, the youngest fourteen, the oldest not yet twenty-one, have just been tried and all but the youngest convicted and sentenced to death for rape in Scottsboro, Alabama. The alleged victims were two white girls, but only one of them was willing to identify the defendants in court, and her testimony was conflicting all the way through. One thousand militia were summoned to the town to maintain order; after the first two boys were pronounced guilty, a brass band and general celebration outside the courthouse indicated where the sympathies of the populace lay and doubtless was not without influence on the jury, which nevertheless could not agree to impose the death sentence on the fourteen-year-old boy. The alleged offense was said to have been committed on board a freight train; the girls were accompanied by seven white boys who, so the story goes, got into a fight with some seventeen or eighteen Negroes; the white boys were thrown off the train; about half of the Negroes soon followed. The remaining nine stayed on the train—a strong presumption of their innocence—and were arrested when they reached their destination, denying that they had any part in the fracas, and all but two of them testifying that they were not even present while it was going on. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been investigating the matter and is making every possible effort to appeal the case and secure a new trial under more favorable circumstances. Scottsboro is priding itself on not having staged a lynching, although the threat of one hung like a thick fog over the legal proceeding from start to finish. And in place of a lynching we must be consoled by the spectacle of several boys under twenty sentenced to death on the unsupported testimony of a white girl who gives every evidence of irresponsibility.

"YOUR SON IS GOING TO DIE FOR NOTHING"—CONDEMNED LAD WRITES MOTHER—"TRY TO GET ME NEW TRIAL"

Courier 4-25-31 Pittsburgh, Pa.

SCOTTSBORO JAIL, Scottsboro, Ark., Apr. 23—"My dearest sweet mother and father:

"This is to let you know of my present life. Am worried to think that your poor son is going to die for nothing."

Poignant in its pathos and with the ring of truth in every word, 17-year-old Heywood Patterson sent this appeal to his mother in Chattanooga. He is one of the eight youths sentenced to die in Alabama on July 10 for alleged rape of two white girls.

ALEXANDER PROUD OF LITTLE TOWN OF SCOTTSBORO

Because the officials of Jackson county took precautions that were calculated to solve a precarious situation and because the people of that same county did not lose their heads in a time of stress, T. H. Alexander, writing in his syndicated, "I Reckon So" column in the Nashville Tennessean, lauds the town of Scottsboro and the county of Jackson in the result of vigilance taken to prevent lynching and riot in the capture of nine negroes and later charging of those negroes with rape.

Mr. Alexander states:

"As a native Alabamian, I am proud of the little town of Scottsboro.

"At Scottsboro, county seat of Jackson county, known in North Alabama as "high Jackson" because it is in the foothills of the Appalachians, the memorable trial of nine negroes charged with rape has been conducted quietly and quickly.

"Troops with machine guns guarded the jail and courthouse. There might have been a terrible orgy of bloodshed, but the sovereign state of Alabama took steps to prevent it.

"The cause of most lynchings in the South is the fear of local authorities to call for troops. Almost all Southern governors have a policy—and sometimes they are supported by statutes—of not sending troops unless the local authorities ask for them. The local sheriff is slow to admit that he cannot guard his prisoner or enforce the laws. Often he does ask for troops because he is in tacit sympathy with the mob. They elected him and he can't forget that.

"In the years to come we of the South will look back on lynchings and wonder why we ever permitted the barbarous practice. Already Tennessee has swung away from it."

Alabama's name has been kept clean through the commonsense of the citizens of that county and the cool and clear thinking of the officials of that county. The law was made for enforcement and to take away the rights of the law is to reduce civiliz

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Legal Lynching Verdict

Amsterdam News 4-22-31

ALABAMA is all set for what William Pickens calls a judicial massacre. Seven boys and one young man, age 21, were convicted and sentenced to death at Scottsboro following their conviction on charges of "attacking" two white girls. Two of the condemned youths are nineteen years old, four are seventeen and the other sixteen. Seven members of the jury voted the death penalty for still another lad of fourteen years, who was supposed to have been implicated, but a mistrial was declared in his case.

ELABORATE preparations were made to prevent the nine from being lynched when they were brought to trial. The mob was on hand, and loud yells went up from the throats of these human vultures when the verdicts were announced. Three days sufficed to try and condemn the eight youths to death. They were not permitted to see any lawyers of their own choosing. Their protestations of innocence fell on deaf ears. It is true that they were technically what might be called hoboes; but so were the two white girls and the five white men on whose testimony they were convicted.

THEIR GUILT OR INNOCENCE is not the main question at issue: they have not had fair trials—they have not been tried at all. They could not be justly tried in the same town in which the alleged "attack" took place, with a mob at the doors of the courthouse. But they can and may be legally lynched, and that is the verdict the jury brought in against them.

WHOLESALE JUDICIAL LYNCHING

In Scottsboro, Alabama, two weeks ago, eight Negro boys ranging in age from 16 to 19 years of age were arraigned in a solemn court of justice charged with rape of two white girls in a freight car.

The two girls and several white boys were said to be "bumming" on the car to some point, as were also the Negro boys. 4-25-31

In a fight the white boys were said to have been thrown out of the car by the colored boys, and the girls upon leaving the freight car accused the colored boys of rape. Baltimore Md.

During the trial a raging mob of ten thousand surrounded the court house demanding the life of the black boys regardless of their guilt or innocence.

Notwithstanding the presence of the bloodthirsty mob the trial proceeded with lightning speed and the boys were convicted and sentenced to die July 10th.

In a civilized community no court would have proceeded with a trial involving the lives of eight human beings in the face of a mob attempting to overawe and force from that body a verdict of guilty and the sentence of death which followed.

In view of the public clamor and the threatening mob those eight boys were entitled to a change of venue to another county and each entitled to a separate trial.

The character of the girls making the charge should have been considered in weighing their testimony and it most certainly was not considered in the mob trial.

If the boys are guilty it should be determined in a court orderly conducted amidst orderly surroundings and with proper defense.

Their conviction after a fair and impartial trial and their punishment following could not be questioned.

The so-called trial, however, through which they were railroaded is a travesty upon justice, a disgrace to the courts of Alabama and in many ways worst than the most brutal lynching which has blighted America.

DOOMED NEGROES ASK 'HANDS OFF'

Apr 24 – 31

Scottsboro Attackers Denounce International Labor Defense And Communists

Montgomery Ala

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 23—(AP)—Eight negroes sentenced to die for attacking two young white girls near Scottsboro March 14, today issued statements denouncing the International Labor Defense and requesting "Communists to lay off."

The statements were made to pastors of negro churches here and in Chattanooga, and to Stephen Roddy, Chattanooga attorney, who defended them in their trials at Scottsboro.

Two representatives of the labor defense interviewed the negroes several days ago and issued a statement charging that the negroes had been "framed from start to finish," and added that their cases would be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Roddy, W. M. James, former truant officer of Chattanooga, the Rev. L. P. Whitten, pastor of the Stanley Chapel Negro Methodist Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, and the Rev. H. C. Terrel, Birmingham, were in conference with the negroes several hours today.

Following the conference a statement was given out by Whitten that "negro preachers of the South and negroes in general are not in sympathy with intervention in the case by the International Labor Defense. It looks to us like an attempt to rally negroes of the South to their organization, and we don't believe its representatives have any sincere interest in helping these condemned negroes."

The negroes are being held in the Jefferson County Jail here pending their removal to Kilby Prison, State Penitentiary, where they are scheduled to be electrocuted July 10.

N.A.A.C.P. PROMISES TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Courier Apr 24 – 31

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

NEW YORK, April 23.—News just received as we go to press is to the effect that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is taking an active part in the nation-wide fight of an aroused Negro population to save eight colored youth, convicted and sentenced to death in the electric chair, on a charge of rape.

Pittsburgh Pa

Just what action the organization has taken is not being divulged at present, but Negroes all over the country can know that at the proper time they will head the movement to check what is termed as "legal lynching" by the state of Alabama.

(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., Apr. 23—"We have been framed and sent to our deaths without the semblance of a fair and impartial trial."

This cry, wrung from the lips of the eight tortured and imprisoned youths, who have been driven to almost maniacal frenzy through the actions of a "Fate" which they are powerless to counteract, has been taken up by prominent individuals and organizations in every section of the country, and has finally aroused the Negro from his lethargy as a mass unit, to join together in a fight against oppression and Southern tyranny, which is likely to be heard around the world.

The story of the infamous crime for which the boys, none over 20 years old, are accused, the trial in the hotbed of the South, where 10,000 mob-swayed individuals came into town from their mountain retreats to make a "Roman holiday" of the farcical travesty on justice, the convictions and stences which were accomplished in less than three days, the girls which sent the youths on the alleged forced "confessions" of the first lap of that journey from which there is no returning, and the futility of the youths to even testify adequately for themselves, as has been shown by letters, written by some of the youths to their parents, have all combined to arouse a public interest which will swell in volume and in force until its power will be irresistible.

"Railroaded" To Chair?

Are these eight youths being railroaded to the chair? All indications tend to prove that they are. Negroes of the country respect the law. They don't want to see offenders go unpunished. But the law of the South in regard to "A life for a rape" is a one-sided law. When have you heard of a white man being sentenced to death for raping a colored girl? And yet, we people of the South know that it happens almost every day.

When have you heard—except in the Harper case of Virginia—where a Negro, accused of rape, has failed to die—if not at the hands of bloodthirsty mobs, then by the process of a "legal lynching."

Courier

Reports are current in this little village. Among Negroes it is freely whispered about that the boys were "railroaded" to their death. But that, of course, is among us. Among the whites, they are going around these days with smug looks on their none-too-intelligent looking faces, feeling that they have just put over a good day's work.

4-25-31

We of the South heard all about the trial. We didn't dare attend the court trial. We heard how the girls had at first denied that the boys captured when the train stopped at Paint Rock were those who committed the alleged crimes. Then, under pressure, and the desire of our Southern "gentlemen" for that trial you read about, they changed their story.

We heard how the trial was a mere mockery. We of the South KNOW that mob-spirit prevailed. We knew that it was impossible to pick an unbiased jury. We know that if the courts hadn't found the boys guilty, mob law would have made the South "run red" once again. These things we knew, and yet we were powerless to act.

The boys convicted, Andy Wright, 17; Heywood Patterson, 17; Eugene Wilson, 19; Willie Robertson, 17; Olen Montgomery, 17; Clarence Morris, 18; Charley Weems, 20, and Ozie Powell, 16, aren't "bad" boys. They don't have a bad reputation. With times as hard as they are, these boys were trying to find jobs. With no money, they had to "hobo" their way. Whites and blacks alike are doing that. The very fact that there were, not only white boys, but two white girls in overalls, "hoboing" their way, proves the truth of what I say.

The boys claim that they weren't the ones who attacked the white boys and threw them off the train. They claim it was someone else. And we believe them. We of the South know that it's mighty hard to get Negro boys to throw white boys off a freight, make the girls stay on the train, and then rape them and not 'move away in a hurry."

The fact that the boys stayed on the trani, proves to us, in a large measure, that they were innocent.

We know that the Communist Party is active in demanding a new trial. We have heard they are doing more to confuse the situation than any other source. We know, however, that they are fighting. That's something. We have heard that the famous N. A. A. C. P. is active and is working hard. That's mighty encouraging, and might once again restore in the minds of these tortured youths the belief that "God's in His Heaven, and all's well with the world."

We've heard that prominent ministers in every part of the country are taking an active interest in the case, and are preaching sermons on it. We know that 12,000,000 Negroes are just awaiting some definite leadership to throw themselves into the movement to at least see that these boys are given a fair and impartial trial.

We of the south believe it's a "frame-up." And when the time comes to act, we're praying that every son and daughter of every Negro mother and father in the United States does his or her part.

FIGHT TO SAVE EIGHT FROM CHAIR MAPPED

Chattanooga [illegible]

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 22 (AP)—Another step was taken today to save from the electric chair eight negroes convicted of attacking two white girls on a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., when George W. Chamlee, former attorney general for Hamilton county, was retained as chief counsel to carry the case to the supreme court of Alabama.

General Chamlee was retained through the International Labor Defense, but the attorney said that he had received requests from the negroes now in jail at Birmingham and from parents of the four Chattanooga prisoners involved.

S. R. Roddy, who, along with a Scottsboro lawyer, defended the negroes at the trial, has been retained by the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, of Chattanooga, to help make the fight to save the lives of the condemned men.

DOOMED NEGROES ASK 'HANDS OFF'

Scottsboro Attackers Denounce International Labor Defense And Communists

Montgomery Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 23—(AP)—Eight negroes sentenced to die for attacking two young white girls near Scottsboro March 14, today issued statements denouncing the International Labor Defense and requesting "Communists to lay off."

4/24/31

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Two representatives of the labor defense interviewed the negroes several days ago and issued a statement charging that the negroes had been "framed from start to finish," and added that their cases would be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

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Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3335

Birmingham, Ala., News
Sunday, June 7, 1931

Conviction Of Negroes In Attacks On Girls Places State Under Fire

* * *

History Of Scottsboro Case Reviewed In Search For Answer To Questions Concerning Merits Of Court Procedure

* * *

BY J. F. ROTHERMEL
Staff Correspondent of The Birmingham News-Age-Herald

Alabama justice, as exemplified in the trials at Scottsboro where eight negroes were sentenced to death for an alleged attack upon two girls, is under fire. It is being attacked here and there throughout the nation.

Some of this assault upon the process of orderly government in this state appears to come from irresponsible sources, but some of it originates in high places. Charges of injustice are being made by magazines of national circulation and such liberal leaders as Theodore Dreiser, Lincoln Steffens, Burton Rescoe and Zuzanna LaFollette have called the conviction only "lynching sublimated by legality."

Counterclaims have been made. Contradictory statements have been voiced. Witnesses sworn to tell the truth have denied each other, and even affidavits attested by notaries make diametrically opposite assertions. And a multitude of opinions exist.

In the midst of all this confusion of ideas, what is the truth? What did happen in Jackson County in those two weeks from the commission of the alleged attacks to the conviction of the negroes? Did those negroes get a fair trial? Was justice done to them as well as to society?

Talked To Witnesses

To get an aswer to some of the many questions circulating about this trial the writer went into Jackson County. He read all the evidence and all the pleadings and motions and affidavits filed in court. He read everything pertaining to the case he could lay his hands on. He talked to scores of persons in that part of the state. He talked to both white persons and negroes, to prosecuting witnesses and defense witnesses, to lawyers on both sides, to officers of the law, to persons whose ancestors have lived for generation in Alabama, and to persons of Northern birth.

These things, and these only, seem undisputed facts: On the afternoon of Wednesday, March 25, about a dozen negroes engaged in a fight with about six white boys on a freight train near Stevenson, in Jackson County. All but one of the white boys were thrown from the train or jumped from the train when the negroes showed weapons.

At Paint Rock, 50 miles from Stevenson, but still in Jackson County, nine negroes were arrested by a posse that had been assembled when some of the white boys reported at Stevenson the fight. This posse believed only the negroes had thrown the white youths from the train.

Somewhere between Stevenson and Paint Rock two girls, Victoria and Ruby Bates, of Huntsville, were attacked. No negro has confessed any part in the attack as far as concerned himself.

The negroes, the white youths and the two girls were all hoboes. The negroes are all young, but there is a dispute as to whether the ages given at the trial, ranging from 14 to 21, are correct. Victoria Price gave her age as 21 and admitted she had been married twice. Ruby Bates gave her age as 17. The first husband of Mrs. Price is dead. She is separated from the second.

Live In Mill Villages

Both girls live in the poorer mill villages of Huntsville. They testified they had been to Chattanooga looking for work. At the trial both said they had gone to but one mill in Chattanooga seeking jobs. Victoria Price is known to the police of Huntsville through minor offenses.

None of the negroes lives in Alabama, and only one of the white boys. Not one of all the principals lives in Jackson County.

After the arrest, the prisoners were taken to the jail at Scottsboro. A crowd, never estimated at more than 300, surrounded this jail that night. Sheriff Wann attempted to spirit the negroes away, but all lights on his cars had been disconnected. About 9 p.m. Gov. Miller was called and before midnight Maj. Joe Starnes, of Guntersville, was at the jail with about 25 National Guardsmen. By that time, however, the crowd was largely gone, driven home at least in part by the cold.

The negroes the next afternoon were taken to Gadsden for safekeeping.

The Grand Jury was called into special session for March 30. The next day 20 indictments were returned charging the negroes with attack. Each of the nine negroes were indicted for a separate attack on each girl and then were charged jointly with an attack on each.

Death Penalty Given

The trial of the negroes began April 6, 12 days after the alleged assault. Four trials were held, some of the cases being grouped. All were given the death penalty except Roy Wright, who gave his age as 14. The jury in this case was unable to agree. All trials, with the exception of two, were finished by Wednesday evening, and the defendants carried away.

There was a large crowd at the trial. Estimates run all the way from a "few hundred" to 10,000. More than 100 National Guardsmen were stationed around the courthouse with machine guns, tear bombs and ordinary arms.

Upon arraignment of the negroes, Judge A. E. Hawkins appointed all members of the Scottsboro bar with the exception of those already interested in the case, as counsel for the negroes. Only one Scottsboro attorney, however, has participated to any degree in the case, Milo Moody. All the opening of the trial, Stephen Roddy, Chattanooga attorney, appeared as a representative, he said, of "interested persons." Later he said he was employed by the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Chattanooga.

Following the conviction, other attorneys have appeared, employed, or getting paid by the International Labor Defense. Money for defense of the negroes has been raised in the North. In Scottsboro, a purse was made up to employ special counsel to assist in the prosecution and the firm of Proctor & Snodgrass, a leading law firm of Scottsboro, was engaged.

These are some of the high spots in the history of the case, facts that for the most part are undisputed. They will be gone into further in later articles.

The charges that have been made of a failure to give the negroes justice hinge for the most part around two points. First, feeling in the county was such that a fair trial was impossible. Second, the shortness of time between the arrest and the trial made out of the question any fair and just preparation for defense. The first of the charges will be considered at length in Monday's issue of The Birmingham News

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Thursday, June 11, 1931

PROTEST THE EXECUTION OF ALA. NEGROES

DRESDEN, Germany, June 10—(I.N.S.)—Five young Communists are under arrest here today in connection with a demonstration staged at the United States Consulate "in protest against the execution of eight negro workers in Alabama."

The rioters smashed several windows. Through one pane of glass they hurled a bottle containing a piece of paper bearing the words: "Down with American murder and imperialism."

Troy ... Herald
Thursday, June 11, 1931

PROTESTS THE EXECUTION OF 8 NEGRO MEN

NEW YORK, June 5—(I.N.S.)—Protest against the execution of eight Alabama negro youths was made today by Theodore Dreiser, chairman of the National Committee for the defense of Political Prisoners, as motion for a new trial for the condemned negroes was to be argued at Scottsboro, Ala.

"These negro boys were convicted amidst a furnace of racial feeling. To save the lives of these boys, two of them only 14 years old, should be the concern of every man and woman interested in justice," Dreiser said.

The committee, of which Dreiser is chairman, is to hold an open meeting of protest tonight at which the mother of two of the condemned negroes will be one of the speakers.

EDENTON, N. C.
ALBEMARLE NEWS
JUN 11 1931

THEY SEEK TROUBLE

The incident which occurred in Dresden, Germany, the other night when bottles were thrown into the window of the building used by the American consulate there containing messages to the effect, "Down with American murder and imperialism. Hail the brotherly union of black and white young proletarians" is just one illustration of the nature of communists.

They are always looking for trouble.

According to a communist paper, the demonstration in Germany was a protest against the "impending execution of eight young Negro workers." It was assumed that the paper referred to eight Negroes who are under death sentence at Scottsboro, Alabama, for two white girls.

Having seen other instances of communist zealousness, we wonder whether they are so much "interested" in the "impending execution of eight Negroes" for brutal criminal assaults, or whether that's just another excuse to hunt for trouble. We think it's the latter.

SCOTTSBORO TRIALS ARE DELAYED AGAIN

Advertiser

Judge Hawkins Gives Attorneys For Condemned Negroes 10 More Days

6-6-31

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., June 5.—(AP)—Motion for new trials for eight negroes condemned to die for attacking two white girls on a freight train near here several weeks ago was delayed today when Judge A. E. Hawkins allowed defense and prose-

Montgomery, Ala

cuting attorneys 10 days in which to prepare additional briefs.

Joseph R. Brodsky, New York attorney, appeared with statements signed by the negroes in which he was authorized with George W. Chamblee, of Chattanooga, to act as their counsel. Brodsky told the court he had been warned by residents here to "get out of town and stay out."

Affidavits were filed by the defense attorneys in which the character of the girls was attacked and others were filed by John K. Thompson, circuit solicitor, denying the allegations.

The affidavits filed by Thompson were signed by officials of the cotton mills at Huntsville in which one of the girls formerly was employed.

Brodsky said he and Chamblee had been retained by the Interracial Labor Defense League to represent the negroes and another attorney, Stephen F. Roddy, of Chattanooga, said he had been employed by the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Chattanooga.

The negroes were convicted in Jackson Circuit Court here and sentenced to die July 10 in the electric chair at Kilby Prison, State penitentiary at Montgomery, where they are now held. They were charged with attacking the girls after throwing five white companions off the train and holding two others at bay with pistols.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
Tuesday, June 9, 1931

Alabama, the Scottsboro Case

Had the eight negroes under sentence of death in Scottsboro, Alabama, been tried in South Carolina, The News and Courier doubts if all of them would hav[illegible] convicted. It doubts if any of them [illegible] have been executed. In this state, m[illegible] against whom a stronger case ha[illegible] has escaped with his life, not[illegible] that many another has been do[illegible] by a mob when he was not guilty.

This opinion is subject to a proviso. The eight negroes would not have been put to death in South Carolina had South Carolina been permitted to deal with them as a sovereign state, not set upon and yelped at by all sorts of pestiferous, often ignorant and sometimes vicious organizations and individuals in foreign parts. To South Carolina the people of other states are of "foreign parts" when they interfere with its administration of justice.

Whether it be right or wrong for societies of New York or Boston to engage in efforts to direct and modify our legal procedure in relation to the "race question," for example, we resent it. Any kind of organized movement in foreign parts to direct and control our ways of trying a criminal, white or black, would enrage us. In it would lurk a danger of maddening our people, of impairing their sense of proportion, of discernment, of causing them to "see red," to be blinded.

It occurs to The News and Courier, that were a delegation of the "best people" of Charleston, financed by a Charleston society, to go to Scottsboro to defend these negroes, it would probably defeat its purposes. The people of Alabama would say, "Why don't you mind your own business? Have you no crimes in South Carolina? Who made you judges in Israel? This is not your 'Israel'."

The Alabamans would go further and say: "The civilization of this commonwealth, good or bad, is ours. We do not want a civilization imposed upon us." The judicious, enlightened, thoughtful Alabamans, desirous of deliberate, thoroughgoing investigation of the Scottsboro case would proceed: "Oh, well, what's the use? These intruders are firing the passions of our mobs. What can we do? We cannot work effectively with a New York society of negroes or with another of communists. If they are to handle the defense of these negroes, let them fight it out with the insenate negro haters in our population and the demagogues who thrive on the race hatreds which we deplore in Alabama. If we interfere we simply sacrifice the influence that we have been trying to exert to improve conditions, the complexities of which we think we understand better than the outsiders do. Deep in this Scottsboro case lie phases of a problem that the strangers not only do not perceive but which we would be hopeless of making clear to them. Alabama must be permitted to shape its own courses, to chart its own destiny, even to make its own blunders, some of them shocking and tragic. If we cannot have an Alabamian civilization, home-made and distinctive in its integrity, no other kind is desirable. If 'Americanism' means the warping of Alabama's movements to the will of foreigners, to that extent we are not Americans."

Anyway, that is how South Carolina would feel in like circumstances, and one suspects that other states are of similar mind. Massachusetts has probably learned a lesson in the Sacco and Vanzetti case which it ought to have learned eighty years ago and will not forget in many a long time.

From the little that The News and Courier has been able to learn from conflicting accounts, the hope is formed in it that the eight negroes will not be executed, but it cannot advance the hope's realization by suggesting that the courts of Alabama are degraded and cruel, that the juries are composed of barbarians, that the respectable and informed people are poltroons and cowards, and that this indictment of them would be proved should the sentence of the Scottsboro court be carried out.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
Wednesday, June 10, 1931

ALABAMA, THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

(From The News and Courier)

Had the eight negroes under sentence of death in Scottsboro, Alabama, been tried in South Carolina The News and Courier doubts if all of them would have been convicted. It doubts if any of them would have been executed. In this state, many a negro against whom a stronger case has been made has escaped with his life, notwithstanding that many another has been done to death by a mob when he was not guilty.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

JUN 11 1931

TWO GERMAN DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Communists over in Europe appear about as much disturbed over conviction and sentence of the eight negroes in Alabama for criminal attack on a white girl, as they were over conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti. As an example, in the German city of Dresden, the Communists staged a "demonstration" in front of the United States consulate, located in a bank building. Windows were smashed, but the consul was not harmed. In explanation of the mobbery, the Communist leaders declared it was meant as a protest against the death sentence imposed on the negroes in Alabama. It has been noted that the Communists last week dispatched their agent to Alabama to protest against the death sentence, and by time the day for execution arrives a world-wide Communist snort will be heard about it. And while the anti-American demonstration was going on in Dresden, the University of Heidelburg was dedicating a new building in honor of Jacob Gould Sherman, retired Ambassador from Washington to Berlin, the dedication being announced as "a gesture of friendship on part of Germany toward America." Former Ambassador Sherman was further honored at the same ceremony, when the gold medal, "the highest distinction of the Baden State," was conferred on him. This demonstration was a sufficient off-set to that staged in Dresden.

NEW YORK SUN

JUN 15 1931

Kamerad, Come Out and Riot!

In four German cities rioters created disturbances last Wednesday, explaining their disorderly conduct as a protest against the new emergency taxes. The rioters are described as communists.

Their excuse for tearing things up is probably purely accidental. In another German town their political brethren were rioting last Tuesday because eight Negroes in Alabama have been condemned to pay the penalty for rape. This week they are likely to riot because Sir HUBERT WILKINS has not yet inspected the submarine structure of the North Pole.

The communists are ebullient and take their rioting where they find it without bothering much about its object. Ask a Democrat to riot and he is likely to say "Why?" Propose a riot to a Republican and he will say he has another engagement. Invite a communist to riot and he will grab a banner and thump a policeman. The first question a communist asks himself on awakening is, "What was it I rioted about yesterday?"

It is fortunate for policemen that communists are so few in number. Were they more numerous the constabulary would get no rest.

New Orleans, La., States
Thursday, June 11, 1931

Mobile Negro to Die In Chair for Attacking Girl

MOBILE, Ala., June 11.—(By A. P.)—Charlie Williams, 29-year-old negro, was sentenced last night to die in the electric chair for attacking a six-year-old white girl as she and companions were returning from school. After a circuit court jury returned a verdict of guilty, with electrocution as punishment, Judge Claude A. Grayson fixed July 17, as time for the execution.

The verdict was returned 34 minutes after completion of the judges' charge to the jurors. It followed a full day of presentation of evidence and arguments, after Judge Grayson had overruled a motion for continuance of the ground a material witness for the defendant was out of the city.

Defense attorneys were named by the court when the negro appeared at arraignment without counsel and amended their plea of not guilty by a contention that Williams was "not guilty by reasons of insanity."

Lynchings-1931

Alabama

3336

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Unite to Free 9 Innocent Scottsboro Boys! Smash Murder Terror in the South!

RENEWED and determined mass protest and organization are necessary now to save the lives of, and FREE the nine innocent Scottsboro boys.

On January 18 at Montgomery, Alabama, the Supreme Court of that state will go through the form of hearing the appeal of the nine Negro boys who were framed up and condemned last spring.

Daily Worker

The Supreme Court which represents the ruling class of landlords and capitalists of Alabama directly, and American capitalism and its Hoover-Wall Street government, will have only one purpose—the **purpose to justify the ghastly crime of the ruling class in legally murdering these innocent Negro children.**

12-28-31

What can be expected from the Alabama Supreme Court has already been indicated in a recent utterance of the Governor of another southern state **Governor Sterling of Texas,** who said in reference to a somewhat similar outrage.

"It may be that this Negro is innocent, but sometimes it is necessary to burn a house to save a village."

New York, N.Y.

The meaning of this is quite clear—that Negroes must be lynched and the terror against them maintained in order to keep the Negro masses from fighting against the growing oppression and starvation.

The attempt to murder the Scottsoboro boys is a part of the class terror which is now being turned ferociously against the toiling Negro masses throughout the South. The terror is used with **a special fury in the South, against the Negro masses, but it also has affected and is being extended to white workers in the South, as in Kentucky, and in the North, frame-ups, lynching and murders of strikers, organizers and revolutionary workers, Negro and white, is used more and more as a weapon against the rising struggles of the masses against the Hoover-hunger program. It is part of the general drive of the capitalists and their government against the living and social standards of the entire toiling section of the American population.**

As the time fast approaches when the Alabama Supreme Court will go through the pretense of hearing the appeal of these innocent Negro boys, the masses of the working population, black and white, have a bloody warning of the decision **they are to expect from the Supreme Court of lynchers. Barney Lee Ross, honest Negro laborer, has just been burned to death in the electric chair in Texas.**

In this blood orgy of the southern white ruling class, we see the clash of class interests and the effect of the present economic ruin in a backward agricultural region where slavery has never really been abolished. The fall of cotton and tobacco prices and the deeper misery of great masses already stricken with unbearable poverty, bring desperate efforts by bankers, landlords and their retinue of small town merchants, etc., to maintain their power to rob and rule against the masses of the toiling population, especially disfranchised Negro agricultural laborers and sharecroppers living under a form of serfdom. Numberless armed attacks by landords and their agents, small town capitalists and the riff-raff and scum of southern capitalism, upon sharecroppers and laborers are now the order of the day. They are organized usually to enforce some new glaring swindle concerning the price of crops or the refusal to pay wages. **These attacks are proceeding in a wave all through the South, from the Atlantic to the Rio Grande.**

The Negro masses are fighting back as in Camp Hill, Alabama. It is necessary to defend openly, by word and deed and without reservation, the right of the Negro masses to organize and defend themselves against these attacks. Lynching and wholesale murder to enforce slavery and maintain the starvation conditions of Negroes must be met by an organized and determined resistance which will make these onslaughts something else than a pleasant pastime for those who take part in them.

In the wake of the flood of bank failures, exactly where the economic crisis has become the sharpest, exactly where the forcible swindling of **the Negro agricultural laborers and share-croppers is at its worst—just there arises the age-old cry of "Rape"!** Of course, this is the shameless lie of the slaveholder and his flunkies. The blood thirsty agitation by "rape" centers invariably around centers of bank failures and mortgage foreclosures—and always in adjoining communities near the point of greatest economic pressure.

There is a deep growing movement of sharecroppers to organize to resist the landlords' robbery. And the small, well organized gangs of landlords, small town merchants and their hangers on of other classes, ride over the country in automobiles, equipped with guns and ropes, to terrorize and crush the movement of the Negro share-croppers and laborers.

Cooperatin gfully with the lynch gangs, the officers of the law systematically are disarming the Negroes to render them easy victims for the lynch and murder bands. A recent confidential report of the anti-Negro, anti-Communist organization called the Fellowship of Reconciliation, exposed by the Daily Worker, reported a **minimum of 75 murders of Negroes in one section of th eblack belt since last August.** The crisis in the agricultural Black Belt which furnishes the breeding ground of the new wave of lynch and murder terror against the Negroes is part of the general deep and chronic agricultural crisis which has ruined hundreds of thousands of white farmers in other sections of the South and in the North.

By wholesale secret and open murder, by organized lynching, the capitalists, landlords, and their hangerr-on, hope to smash the growing unity of the Negro and white masses shown in the National Hunger March, the heroic struggles of the Negro and white miners of Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, etc. **The responsibility for defeating these attacks and defending the Negro masses rests first of all upon the Communists, the militant white workers, and the working-class as a whole.**

The wave of open terror and legal lynching requires not only guns, rope and electric chairs, but also Negro and white renegades to betray those who would organize resistance. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is performing this function in the ranks of the Negro masses; the leadership of the American Federation of Labor, and the Socialist Party, render the valuable service for the lynchers in the ranks of the white workers.

These assistant lynchers are openly calling for police suppression of all efforts of the Negro masses to hold meetings or to organize in the South, and endorsing American institutions of which, of course, lynching and frame-up of Negroes is the most characteristic and best. **Walter White, William Pickens, W. E. B. DuBois, with shamelessness never before equalled, are now** proceeding with the open aid of the prosecutors and courts who conspired to lynch these boys, to attempt to step in and deprive the boys of any legal representation by pretending themselves to be the "representatives of the boys" against the vehement protest of the boys and their parents

These capitalist agents are attempting to demoralize the mass movement which is based upon the solid demand for the release of these innocent boys, by broadcasting the propaganda that there is "doubt" about the innocence or guilt of the boys, and that this "doubt" must be settled by a "fair trial" in an Alabama lynch court.

The Alabama Supreme Court will meet upon this case, not to decide some fancy legal point that is supposed to concern their guilt or innocence—for everybody knows that these boys are innocent—but only to find the best means to give the legal murder of these children the appearance of punishment of social crime, or at least that there is some doubt of their innocence (which in the case of Negroes is considered sufficient for their condemnation to death), and to enable the state to proceed with their legal murder without arousing further the anger of the masses.

In short, the court will go through certain forms only for the purpose of aiding the legal lynching of the boys. The purpose will be to quiet down and pacify the many hundreds of thousands of Negroes and of black and white workers who have been aroused by the Communist Party, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense to protest against this intended murder of innocent children. The court will consider whether or not it will pay the landlords and capitalists of the South to go straight ahead and murder these boys in defiance of the aroused anger of the masses, or whether it would be better policy to hold off this cold-blooded butchery so as to avoid arousing the masses to further fury.

Daily Worker

Will the nine innocent Negro boys be burned to death on the electric chair? **Will the lynchers' court at Montgomery declare on January 18 that the nine innocent boys must be burned to death on the electric chair?**

12-28-31

This is the question to be answered, not by the Court of Lynchers, but by the toiling masses of black and white men and women and youth who have the power to save them. **The answer will** be given, and the decision really made, by the degree of the militancy and courage of the overwhelming numbers of toilers who will come into the streets to show their anger against this beastly butchery.

New York, N.Y.

To save these innocent boys means especially to mobilize the masses of white workers and working farmers against the white ruling class which is committing the murder!

It means to arouse the Negro and white masses against the wave of bloody terror now sweeping through the South. It means fighting with the greatest courage and energy against the wholesale lynching that is spilling the blood of working people for the benefit of the parasite class. It means really summoning the masses of white workers, together with the Negro masses, to stand in one solid front and throw back this wave of terror. **They must stand togegther and refuse to permit their ranks to be divided—one of the main purposes of cry of "rape" and ALL attacks on Negroes by the murder agencies of American capitalism and its Hoover-Wall Street government.**

It means that the Scottsboro case and the struggle against the whole hunger and terror program of the Southern ruling class must be placed in the very center of the strike of Negro and white miners in Kentucky and the unity of the white and black workers and exploited farmers welded in a huge mass struggle against Southern terrorism. It means a struggle for the elementary rights of all workers, Negro and white, to organize, meet, strike, a struggle for free speech and free assemblage, a struggle against the whole starvation and war program of American imperialism which, in the Black Belt, uses as one of its main weapons of oppression wholesale secret and open murder and organized lynching of Negroes.

The masses in the industries and the millions of unemployed thrown on the streets to starve will settle this issue! Millions of workers can and must be set in motion! The fight to save these sons of our people is the fight of the white working class as well as those of the Negro masses. It is the fight against the common oppressor.

The efforts made so far to save the lives and liberties of the nine Scottsboro boys have not been strong enough. Ten times bigger demonstrations must be organized.

In every city and town—organize and call out the masses of workers to demonstrate their determination to save these nine innocent boys.

Hold your mass demonstrations, your mass meetings. Send your protests by teelgram to the Alabama Supreme Court at Montgomery, Alabama. But do not fool nourselves—the bosses' court is the lynchers' friend! Use every meeting and demonstration to rally masses for bigger and wider demonstrations against this bloody murder of the nine innocent boys.

We demand the immediate release of the nine innocent Negro boys framed up in Scottsboro.

Wedemand the immediate release of all victims of the white ruling class courts—the release of Orphan Jones and George Davis in Maryland, Willie Peterson in Birmingham, John Moore at Winston-Salem, the Negro and white coal miners in Kentucky, Mooney and Billings, and the Imperial Valley prisoners!

Down with the bosses' lynch justice!

Negro and white workers and farmers! Unite for mass defense against the bosses' terror!

Death to lynchers!

White and Negro workers and farmers! Prevent the disarming of Negroes by the bosses' police and sheriffs to make them easy victims for swindling landlords and lynch gangs! Defend the right of Negroes to "keep and bear arms" in defense against the bosses' lynchers!

Workers and exploited farmers, black and white, join together in the fight against wage-cuts and unemployment, against the robbery of the laboring farmers and against lynching and frame-up.

Fight for equal rights for Negroes! For the right of self-determination of the Negro masses in the Black Belt.

We demand the confiscation of the land of the rich white landlords in the Black Belt, for the benefit of the Negro tenant farmers and laborers.

Workers and farmers, black and white! Fight for the immediate release of the nine innocent Negro boys whom the bosses plan to murder in Alabama!

Down with lynching! Death to lynchers! Smash the new drive of murder terror against Negroes! Cement the fighting unity of the white and Negro toilers throughout the United States!

Force State to Recognize Chamlee As Attorney for Scottsboro Boys

Daily Worker 12-29-31

New York

[illegible]LLETIN.

(By Telegraph to Daily Worker.)

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 28.—State Attorney General Knight, faced with the special retainer signed by the eight condemned Scottsboro boys and their parents, was forced today to admit that the International Labor Defense attorneys, General Chamlee and Irving, are the official attorneys in the case.

The attorney general also admitted that all other cases are being postponed by the state of Alabama in order to rush through with the Scottsboro case. The date for the hearing of the aopeal has been definitely set for Jan. 21.

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(By Telegraph to Daily Worker)

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 28.—The eight Scottsboro boys in the death cells at Kilby Prison were overjoyed this morning to receive a visit from their parents and other relatives and the attorneys of the International Labor Defense, Gen. Geo. W. Chamlee and Schwab.

The boys anxiousy asked if the ILD and the white and Negro workers were stil putting up a big fight for them. Their parents assured them that the fight had never been given up and that they themselves had toured the country for their defense.

Told by their parents of the persistent efforts of the NAACP misleaders to disrupt the defense under the pretense that they are "representing" the boys, all eight of the boys signed a special retainer reaffirming that the ILD has complete charge of their defense. All of their relations also signed the retainer.

The boys denounced the treacherous, disruptive tactics of the NAACP and turned over to their parents several letters from Walter White in which he attempted to freighten the boys by telling them that the ILD was out of the case.

The ILD attorneys will demand to see the boys privately tomorrow and will protest against the attempts of the prison authorities to terrorize the boys into signing statements for the NAACP. The ILD attorneys will also see the Attorney General tomorrow to protest against the attempts of the State to keep the NAACP in the case in spite of the repeated repudiation of the NAACP by the boys and their parents. The attorneys will also take up a new move to force immediate release of a new trial for 14-year-old Eugene Williams on the grounds that as a juvenile he was tried by a court that had no jurisdiction over him. Eugene is the youngest of the eight boys condemned to burn in the electric chair. The ages of the others range from 16 to 20 years.

The Southern District of the ILD is caling for special protests from workers and their organizations demanding the elementary rights of these innocent children and their parents to choose their own attorneys and to consult with their attorneys without the warden and armed guards being present.

The special retainer just signed by the boys and their relatives will be filed with the Alabama Supreme Court tomorrow.

Relatives of the boys who visited them today for the first time include Julius Patterson, older brother of Haywood Patterson, and their little sister, also little Opelika Williams, small sister of Eugene Williams, and Mrs. Gussie McLeror, aunt and only living close relation of Charlie Weems.

In the meantime, the NAACP misleaders continue their activities as assistant lynchers to the Alabama lynch courts, using the name of Clarence Darrow as "windowdressing" to deceive the Negro masses and to divert them from the mass fight of white and Negro workers which alone can save the boys. Darrow is said to be in Birmingham conferring with the NAACP attorneys, Fort, Beddow and Fort. These are the same attorneys who are defending Dent Williams, the white lawyer who almost murdered Willie Peterson, unemployed tubercular miner, in the county jail at Birmingham.

Reds Will Observe "Scottsboro Days"

Amsterdam News

12-[illegible]-31

Plan Protest Meetings in 30 U. S. Cities—Deny White's Charges

The International Labor Defense announced here Friday that January 8, 9 and 10 will be marked as "Scottsboro Protest Days" by the "200,000 International Labor Defense members and members of affiliated worker organizations." 12-29-31

In thirty large cities of the nation protest meetings will be held to focus attention on the case of eight youths under death sentence for alleged attacks upon two white hobo girls at Scottsboro, Ala. New York

The arguments for retrial of the boys will be heard January 18 before the Alabama Supreme Court. The Labor Defense has retained George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, Tenn., to represent the boys. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People contended last week that the radical group has no part in representing the boys.

J. Louis Engdahl, secretary of the I. L. D., issued a statement Friday and declared that Chamlee is to participate in the proceedings despite the claims of the N. A. A. C. P.

He also denied that the I. L. D. attempted to "buy off" some Negro newspapers on the Scottsboro case as charged by Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., in an article in December Harper's.

COMMUNISTS IN SCOTTSBORO CASE, CLAIM

Journal and Guide

Representatives Of I. L. D. Denies Judge Ruled Them Out

12-26-31

NEW YORK.—With the appeal of the Scottsboro case to be heard before the Alabama State Supreme Court next month, the International Labor Defence has announced that it is organizing a national mass movement to force a new hearing for the eight young Negro boys and secure their release from death cells at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala. Norfolk, Va.

January 8, 9 and 10 will be Scottsboro Protest Days for 200,000 International Labor Defense members and members of affiliated worker organizations, according to J. Louis Engdahl, white, I. L. D. secretary. "In 30 large American cities protest meetings will be held, demonstrations staged, and a sweeping publicity campaign launched to focus a glare of public attention upon the legal lynching of these innocent young Negro workers," says Engdahl.

Seven parents and relatives of the boys were sent by the I. L. D. to visit the boys in Kilby Prison last week. General George W. Chamlee, white, Chattanooga attorney, retained by the I. L. D. to defend the boys in their appeal, writes of the visit: "The southern district of the I. L. D. provided expense money for a visit to the prison by Mrs. Ada Wright, Mrs. Beatrice Maddox, Mrs. Lula Jackson, Mrs. Josephine Powell, Mrs. Ida Norris, and two girls, sisters of Roy and Andy Wright. I have been to Kilby Prison and visited the Scottsboro boys a number of times ,but I do not think they were ever as happy to see their families as they were this time. The boys are very grateful for the assistance furnished them by the I. L. D."

Mr. Engdahl denied categorically the statement issued to the press by the N. A. A. C. P. that Mr. Chamlee was ruled out of the appeal because Circuit Judge A. E. Hawkins "did not approve" the bill of exceptions filed by the I. L D. attorney.

"The International Labor Defense is in the Scottsboro case with both feet—as it has been from the beginning, before the N. A. A. C. P. dared take a stand," says Mr. Engdahl," and it intends to remain in the case. By the wishes of all the boys and all their parents and nearest of kin, the I. L D. will argue the appeal before the Supreme Court on January 18."

"The I. L. D. has affidavits from all the boys and the nearest of kin saying that they want the I. L. D. and Mr. Chamlee to defend them." Mr. Engdahl claims. "In these affidavits, which are incorporated in the bill of exceptions signed by Judge Hawkins, the boys and their parents explicitly declare that they do not want the N. A. A. C. P. to meddle in their case."

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama.

3337

German, Swiss, And Russian Groups Cable New Pleas For Eight Negroes

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

7-8-31

Another cablegram from Germany, one from Switzerland and one from Russia, all protesting against the death sentence imposed on the eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro of criminally assaulting two young white girls, reached the office of Gov. Miller yesterday, and were filed away with other communications received on the same subject.

The one from Germany was dated at Gros Thueringen, and was signed by the "Thueringen Counter Committee in the Interest of Working People." It was in German, and said: "The conference on July 5 of the proletarian parents and school officials of the organization of Proletarian Free Thinkers in Gros Thueringen raise protests against the inhuman mishandling and sentence of the eight negro boys as compared to the recent Sacco-Vanzetti scandal. Must by all means be stopped."

Strangely enough, the message from Switzerland, forwarded from Zurich, was also transmitted in German, and stated: "Twenty-five thousand members of our organization and one thousand visitors protest in a meeting against the death of those negro boys." It was signed "Rote Hilfe Schweiz," meaning, literally, "The Red Help in Switzerland."

The third cablegram came from Moscow, in Russia, where considerable time and effort has been spent in destroying church property by persons declaring themselves confirmed atheists. This message, signed by "Friends of Leo Tolstoy, Vladimir Tchertkoff, Olga Tolstoy, Ivan Gorboundoff Posadoff," said: "In the name of Jesus who taught love and clemency we entreat you to cancel death sentences on negroes Scottsborough." The wording was in English.

For a translation of the cablegrams in German, the State Department of Education was called on. Miss Mary England of the Department staff who interpreted the message that arrived from Berlin, Monday, was out of the city yesterday, so Mrs. Rose Marcus, 19 Mildred Street, was called on and asked to make a translation, and she complied. Mrs. Marcus, who has resided here for the past 60 years, was born in Germany, and came to Montgomery when she was 15 years old, to make her home.

The senders of the cablegrams appear to be under the impression that the eight negroes in whom they are so much interested, are to be executed this month on the original date set by the trial court. Carrying out of the sentences, however, has been suspended in each case, by the taking of appeals to the Supreme Court of Alabama, where they are now pending.

Yesterday morning early, two youths who said they were from Wisconsin, but did not give their names, appeared at the Governor's office and expressed a desire to talk to him regarding the Scottsboro cases.

Howell Turner, the Governor's private secretary, told them the Chief Executive was at that time talking with other visitors and could not see them, also that until the courts have finally disposed of the cases the Governor can take no action regarding any of them. When and after the courts have finally acted, he added, Gov. Miller will give everyone who so desires, an opportunity to be heard regarding the cases.

The visitors thought the courts had acted finally, until advised otherwise by Mr. Turner, they said.

[illegible] Sentinel
Thursday, July 2, 1931

ARTHUR BRISBANE TALKS ON "SCOTTSBORO CASE"

Arthur Brisbane, the world's most famous columnist, in his syndicated column that is printed over the world under date of July 1st, has the following to say regarding the now world known "Scottsboro case":

Mr. Brisbane says:

"In New York City colored men, and some whites, paraded in protest against the proposed execution of eight negroes in Alabama, one of them a boy in his teens.

The eight negroes are to be killed on the complaint of two white women that were traveling in a freight car in which the negroes stole a ride. The character of th women is not made clear and it is suggested that if the eight men had been white, they would not have been punishdee. It would seem desirable to clear up that point.

"The parade in Harlem, New York, emphasized the turning against religion that has recently been conspicuous in many places, Mexico, Spain, Italy and lately in the state of Vera Cruz, where a new law restricts the number of priests to 10, or only one for 100,000 population.

"The old fashioned signs in the parade read, "Smash the legal lynchings," and "Death to lynchers."

A new kind of sign read, "Defend the Soviet Union," although it is not clear what the Soviet Union has to do with the execution of eight Alabama negroes. And another sign, evidently inspired by agnosticism, read, "Work and pray, live on hay, you'll eat pie in the sky, when you die."

Einstein Joins Communists' Plea For Doomed Negroes

Advertiser

Scientist's Name Signed With Three Others To Cablegram From Berlin

Montgomery, Ala

7-12-31

Albert Einstein, famous German scientist and originator of the theory of relativity, is one of the signers of a cablegram received at the office of Gov. Miller yesterday, urging clemency for the eight negroes under sentence of death for criminally assaulting two white girls in Jackson County.

The cabled message from the German capital, signed with the names of Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, Kaethe Kollwitz and Alfons Goldschmidt, said: "Hundreds of representatives of intellectual Berlin beg you in the last hour for the sake of humanity to stop the sentence against the eight young negroes of Scottsboro."

There can be little doubt that the "Albert Einstein" whose name is signed to the cable, and the famed Prof. Albert Einstein, who recently visited this country, are one and the same, when reference is made to a press dispatch from Berlin under date of July 4.

This dispatch announced that supporting the committee formed in New York by Theodore Dreiser, to save the eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro, from the electric chair, a German committee had been formed by Prof. Alfons Goldschmidt, traveler and noted lawyer. It was further stated that Prof. Goldschmidt "had obtained the adhesion of Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, Leon Feuchtwanger, George Ledebour and other prominent scientists, authors and public men."

From the wording of the cablegram it is obvious that those who sent it were laboring under the erroneous impression, apparently shared in by practically everyone outside the boundaries of Alabama despite repeated announcements through the press to the contrary, that the eight negroes were to be electrocuted July 10, the execution date set by the trial court. As a matter of fact all of the defendants have appeals now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama, and carrying out of the death sentences is suspended until that tribunal acts, which will be at least several months hence, as the court is now in recess.

Many other messages regarding the Scottsboro cases were also received at the executive department at the capitol yesterday. There was one from "Campers of Camp Kinderwet," in Ontario, Canada, who, protesting against the execution of the negroes, "demanded" their "immediate release." There was one also signed "Zurov, Secretary," from Elizabeth, N. J., which stated that [illegible] hundred negro and white workers had held a meeting there, and demanded the "unconditional release" of the Scottsboro defendants.

From Cincinnati came a communication that a protest mass meeting at that place had "demanded the immediate release" of the negroes. Another message in the form of a telegram was received from Bryn Mawr, Penn., which urged that every step be taken to make sure "justice is accomplished." The telegram was signed "Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers in Industry."

These and other messages received, were filed with similar ones that have been arriving for days.

EINSTEIN LENDS A HAND

Advertiser

7-12-31

Montgomery, Ala.

Alabama was admitted as a State in 1819. Capital punishment has been authorized by law and practiced consistently ever since. Executions have been common in Alabama, as in most of the other States, only seven States in the union forbidding capital punishment for any crime.

Rape is a capital crime in Alabama, as in most of the States. Since the foundation of the State men have been executed from time to time for this offense. Most offenders have been lynched outright, but in late years public opinion has turned slowly against mob action in Alabama until today it is rather the rule than the exception for rapists to be tried in court and given all of the protection of law. Now and again juries, after hearing all the evidence, find the accused not guilty.

But not until now has Alabama been held up to public execration for convicting rapists in a court of law and imposing the death penalty upon them. Lately, under the leadership of radical political agitators in New York, Alabama has been held up to the world as a sort of land of juridical horrors. This agitation for clemency for the eight felons has swept through radical circles in Europe and finally made an impression upon men of such consequence and sense as Prof. Albert Einstein, the great physicist, Thomas Mann, the German novelist, and a number of other important Germans. These have united in an appeal to Governor Miller for clemency.

These men have been so ill-informed that apparently they do not even know that the matter is not yet in the hands of the Governor. They seem to be under the impression that the felons are to be executed at an early date. They do not know that the case is still in the hands of the courts, on appeal. The convicted men are seeking a new trial, and their fate will not be definitely known until Fall or Winter. When the courts have taken final action and it should be decreed that the men shall die unless there is executive intervention, anyone who likes may petition Governor Miller for clemency. He will give all a fair hearing.

In the meantime this frenzied agitation is doing nobody any good. It is not making it easier for the courts to act solely upon the facts. A political issue has been made of a criminal question.

Men of the rank of Einstein and Mann have been duped. If they wish to oppose capital punishment on principle they would of course be well within their rights. But it is unjust to Alabama to make its name a hissing and a by-word in radical and "liberal" circles on the strength of false and distorted information. Alabama did not discover capital punishment. Alabama did not originate the idea of executing men for rape. The Scottsboro convictions were not the freakish results of moral aberration on the part of Alabamians. The convicted men committed a revolting crime under circumstances which surely were not extenuating. The case against them is very bad indeed, as such things have generally gone in civilized communities. They were fortunate to escape mob action, but they did escape it, and they escaped it because this State gave them adequate protection, gave them a fair trial and convicted them on facts that were scarcely disputed—indeed the facts were freely admitted before the trial.

Even so, if upon further examination of all the facts it is found that there is a reasonable doubt of the guilt of any or all of these men, they will surely be given the benefit of the doubt. The courts of Alabama can be depended upon to do that.

It is a matter for the courts of Alabama, not for low-grade political radicals and their hy-grade but moony "liberal" sympathizers the world over, to determine

You'll Have To Study Geography To Keep Up With Scottsboro Plea

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

7-10-31

Protests against the execution of the eight negroes convicted and condemned to death in Jackson County for criminally assaulting two young white girls, continued to arrive at the office of Gov. Miller yesterday from Cuba, Santo Domingo, Canada and various sections of the United States, where the impression still appears to endure that the condemned men were to go to their death today, the original date set by the trial court for their electrocution. All of the condemned have appeals pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama, execution of sentence being automatically suspended until the high court acts on these appeals.

Protests from Cuba emanated exclusively from the City of Havana. Cablegrams from there were from Sindicato Metalurgico Habana, Sindicata Emplendos Casus Salud, and Club Juvenil Obrero. There was also a petition signed by many citizens of Santo Domingo, which arrived by mail.

From Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, came a telegram from the Canadian Labor Defense League, that said: "This meeting of workers assembled in Moosejaw, Sask., July 8, protest vehemently against sentence of death passed against eight negro boys of Scottsboro, Ala. The Canadian labor stands shoulder to shoulder in asking for a new trial for these boys and demand their dismissal upon this framed up charge. Another telegram from the Canadian Labor Defense League, of Windsor, Ontario, protested against the "legal lynching and frameup" of the "boys," and demanded "their immediate release."

Protest From Pacific

The San Francisco League of Colored Women Voters, through Vivien L. Simmons, president, wired as follows: "Dear sir. A nation rivets its eye on Alabama asking that a better judgment will prevent her from prepetrating a cruel injustice in taking the lives of nine negro boys whose guilt is a matter of grave doubt. Won't you for God's sake exercise executive interference at the solicitations of thousands of our citizens."

Haywood Field, secretary of the United Front Scottsboro Defense committee of Monroe, N. Y., wired: "We, the negro workers gathered here on Sunday evening July 5, at St. John's Baptist Church at Monroe, N. Y., demand the immediate and unconditional release of the nine innocent negro children, eight of whom have been condemned to burn in the electric chair on July 10 after an unjust trial held in a lynching atmosphere at Scottsboro."

Slovaks Aroused

By mail was received a copy of a resolution which it is stated was adopted at Sokol Slovak Hall in Racine, Wis., at a conference of 12 organizations. This resolution protests against "this legal lynching" and "demands" a trial of the negroes "with a working class jury—half negro and white, and with lawyers representing the International Labor Defense be admitted to the court to defend these workers who are innocent and must be freed." It is signed "United Front Conference for Defense of 9 Negro Boys."

Alfred Sharp, writing as secretary of the United Scottsboro Defense committee, Binghampton, N. Y., condemns "legal lynching" and "demands" the release of the condemned men. A telegram from the United Front committee of Ossining, N. Y., called on the Governor to grant the "unconditional release" of the prisoners. The Governor was advised in another message from Stockton, Calif., that a protest demonstration under the auspices of the Young Communistic League holds him "directly responsible for the lives and unconditional release of the nine Scottsboro negro boys."

Among the protests received by mail was one from "negro and white workers assembled in Russian Hall," Springfield, Mass. Of much milder tone than the others was a communication from the Young Republican Club of Philadelphia, stating the members of that organization feel that the eight condemned negroes are not guilty, and asking the Governor to do all he can for them.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS.
STANDARD
JUN 23 1931

Surprising

The action of the New England Conference of the A. M. E. church in not even discussing the case of the eight ~~Negro~~ youths convicted in Alabama of attacking two white girls occasions surprise.

The oldest of the defendants is twenty, the youngest thirteen; some of them have been sentenced to death, and even the youngest to life imprisonment. They were taken from a freight train on which they were stealing a ride, and the two white girls, in men's clothes, were found on the same train. According to Theodore Dreiser, who investigated the case and has been leading a demand for a new trial, the girls at first denied that they had been in any way molested. Only after the sheriff had questioned them did they remember the alleged attack. Elsie McCormick, in an article in the New York World-Telegram, says: "The trials were hardly conducted in a manner that would lead to cool thinking and an impartial functioning of justice. The time was set for 'horse swapping day'—an occasion when the little town (Scottsboro) of eighteen hundred was invaded by ten thousand farmers from other parts of the state. The four trials were carried on after the fashion of a large public fiesta. Each time a verdict of guilty was announced the horse swappers cheered with enthusiasm and a band, loaned by a hosiery mill, burst into a martial air. The acclaim which greeted the first verdicts could be readily heard by other juries still in deliberation. Naturally, only talesmen with impossibly stout hearts could have voted for acquittal with such cheering ringing in their ears". The case has attracted considerable attention and the justice of the proceedings has been questioned by persons of repute who have investigated, not only by Mr. Dreiser, but by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which has intervened in the boys' behalf.

SOUTHERN JUSTICE

Tribune

6-26-31

Washington

The conduct of the Scottsboro case in Alabama is an outstanding example of the ignorance and injustice which dominate the Southern states aided and abetted by race prejudice.

In an affidavit from Clarence Norris, it appears that he was beaten and threatened with lynching if he failed to testify against the colored boys, and also that he was never in the freight car in which the assaults are alleged to have occurred, and that he saw nothing of the alleged events concerning which he was forced by beatings and threats to testify. His affidavit recites:

"I was slapped and kicked and told that if I did not tell that the other Negro boys who were arrested on the train had something to do with those white girls, that they would kill me; that they would shoot me down in the courthouse. I was afraid of them and told them that I would do what they said."

None of the defense testimony of the boys was recorded by the court stenographer. They were going to die anyway, why take their testimony? They were nobody but poor, defenseless Negroes; who cared anything about those boys?

A hearing was held on June 13 for a new trial, and the defense lawyers began preparing an appeal for prejudice and ignorance and carelessness was so ramphant that they felt their request for a new trial would not be granted, and they would have to make an appeal to a higher court.

It is evident that the two white girl hoboes, who claimed to have been attacked, have conspired with three white boys who were beaten in a fight with two of the colored boys, to get even with the Negroes. Therefore, these white hobo girls cried rape, and nine Negro boys, three of them only 14, were herded together and condemned to die July 10. That is Southern justice.

DOTHAN, ALA.
EAGLE
AUG 7 1931

THANK THE FOOLS AND THE MEDDLERS OUTSIDE OF THE STATE

The Negro who held up three prominent Birmingham girls and after keeping them captives for four hours, killed one, critically wounded another and shot the third, told the girls, among other things, that he "blamed the white race for making my race what it is today."

Let Alabamians thank the Communists and radical agitators for this Negro's attitude. They are the ones who have libelled and outraged Alabama, and stirred strife between the two races because of the conviction of the eight Negroes at Scottsboro. And while Alabamians pay their respects to these cranks, let them also pay their respects to Arthur Brisbane, Sinclair Lewis, Theodore Dreiser, Lady Astor, Clarence Darrow and Einstein. They, too, have served to add fuel to the fire.

As a result of this idiotic and wholly uncalled for agitation it is significant to note that a 16-year-old Negro dragged an 11-year-old white girl into a corn field near Hayneville Wednesday afternoon and attempted to assault her, and was promptly lynched.

For years Alabama's record in the matter of mob violence has been admirable—for several years it was entirely unspotted. The Eagle, with other Alabama newspapers, has unequivocally opposed the mob spirit. But we frankly recognize a simple and fundamental truth of human nature: The white people of this State will not tolerate criminal assault upon its womanhood. The penalty is death, preferably by legal and orderly trial as in the case at Scottsboro. But if the foolish blacks are to be agitated and misled by irresponsible idiots in Germany and literary meddlers in this country, then much of the blame must be laid at their door when a mob takes the law into its own hands.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

3338

Alabama.

3338

Trial of Nine Negro Workers Set for Day of Fair As Press Whips Up Lynching Sentiment

Daily Worker

Already Drunken Mobs Are Gathering Threatening Lives of Prisoners Held on Usual Fake Charge of Rape

4-2-31

SCOTSBORO, Ala., April 1 — Intensifying their campaign of terror against the Negro workers in an effort to smash the growing unity of white and Negro workers as expressed in the growing resistance of the working-class to the persecution of the Negro and foreign born workers, the local bosses and courts are rushing through the frame-up of nine Negro workers who were taken off a freight train a few days ago and thrown into jail on the usual lynch-terror inciting charge of "attacking white women."

The nine workers, Heywood Patterson, Eugene Williams, Charles Green, Roy Wright, Mose Powell, Willy Roberts, Clarence Norris, Owen Montgomery and Andy Wright, were arraigned today under the charge that they "forcibly ravaged, debased Victoria Price and Ruby Bates against the dignity of the state of Alabama." They are supposed to have attacked the two girls after throwing off of the freight train seven white men who were with the girls. All pleaded not guilty.

Daily Worker

Several mobs have gathered here within the past few days in an attempt to lynch the workers. The boss press and the correspondent of the Associated Press have boasted that "the Negroes would be given a speedy trial."

4-2-31

The danger of a mass lynching is still present. There was strong lynch sentiment today when the men were returned under escort of guardsmen to the city prison after their arraignment. A surly, determined mob massed about the prison. Mothers had brought their babies to see the fun. Lipsticked girls and their business men escorts drove up in fine cars to be in at the killing. Remarks from the crowd showed a general opinion that the guardsmen would not use their weapons to defend the Negroes against a determined attempt to lynch them: "Them guards won't shoot us," an old woman said, adding that she "wished the men had guns to shoot them niggers down." Business men in their cars made repeated attempts to delay the return of the prisoners, stopping their cars several times in the path of the guardsmen on the pretense that they had engine trouble.

Prepare Mass Lynching.

The entire town is certain that a mass lynching of the nine workers will take place on April 6 when they come up for trial. It is significant that the trial has been set for April 6 which is horse-swapping and general fair day for the surrounding farm population. Five hundred more people will come to town on that day. The town population is 3,000.

Local Negro church and business leaders are scared and afraid to make any attempt even to demand a fair trial for the prisoners. The Negro workers are bitterly resentful but lack militant leadership. Only the nation-wide protest of the working class started immediately and expressing itself in mass protest meetings, resolutions and telegrams to the governor of Alabama and the officials of this town can save these workers from a mass lynching on April 6.

These meetings must be held immediately. The struggle against lynching must be intensified. The mass demonstrations throughout the country on March 28 against lynching and deportations must be followed up. The workers must make the bosses realize that we will not stand for their planned mass lynching on April 6. Mobilize the working class for the fight against persecution of Negroes and foreign born, for the fight to save these nine workers facing lynching in Alabama.

Third Negro In Jackson Attack Is Given Death

Advertiser

4-9-31

Montgomery, Ala.

Two County Juries Hold Fate Of Six Others As Scottsboro Trials End

4-9-31

Crowds Orderly

Montgomery, Ala.

Machine Guns Are Kept Trained Upon Streets Leading Toward Jail

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., April 8.—(AP)—Two Jackson County juries tonight deliberated on evidence presented in the trials of six negroes charged with attacking two young Huntsville white girls who were "bumming" their way home on a freight train. Three negroes already have been convicted with the death penalty for the offense.

Judge J. A. Hawkins, presiding, the prosecutor and chief of defense counsel today scouted charges of the International Labor Defense that the negroes were not being given a fair trial and were being "railroaded" on "framed up charges."

One jury deliberated the fate of five negroes, four aged 17 and the fifth 16, for whom the death penalty was asked, and the other that of Roy Wright, 14, of Chattanooga, for whom the State agreed not to ask execution.

The 14-year-old negro was placed on trial shortly after the other jury had retired, only the two girls appeared for the State, and the negro was his sole defense witness, admitting that he was present but denying participating in the attack.

Both juries were locked up for the night, shortly after 9 o'clock when neither could report an agreement. They were instructed to resume deliberations at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

The jury considering the cases of the five negroes, however, was reported near a verdict.

Third Gets Death

The trial of the five was interrupted shortly after noon for another jury to return a verdict of conviction against 17-year-old Heywood Patterson, of Chattanooga, which carried the death sentence. Two others, Charlie Weems, 21, of Atlanta, and Clarence Norris, 19, were convicted by a jury and sentenced to death yesterday.

Judge Hawkins in commenting on the Labor Defense telegram today declared the charges "absurd," adding that he had "appointed able members of the Jackson County bar to defend them," and that "I personally will welcome any investigation."

The Labor Defense telegram said a representative on the ground had said the attorneys defending the negroes had pronounced themselves in favor of speedy executions and termed the trials on "framed-up assault charges."

Stephen Roddy, Chattanooga, Tenn., attorney and chief of defense counsel, said "I don't see how anyone can say that we are not striving to see that the defendants are getting the fairest trial from the defense attorneys.....If they (the International Labor Defense) have anything to present in behalf of our clients ,we certainly would like to know about it."

Advertiser

"Convictions For All"

The prosecutor, H. G. Bailey, declared "threat or no threat," the State's attorneys would make every effort to obtain convictions. He said "If the International Labor Defense has representatives on the ground, they should make themselves known so we can assist them."

The jury retired with the cases of the five in its hands at 4:20 p.m. after eight State witnesses, the same that testified in the two previous trials, had repeated identical stories, and the five defendants had denied their guilt.

The five negroes, Olen Montgomery, 17, of Monroe, Ga.; Andy Wright, 17, and Eugene Williams, 19, of Chattanooga; Willie Robertson, 17, of Columbus, Ga., and Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta, each denied his own participation but accused all the others.

4-9-31

There was no noisy demonstration such as marked yesterday's verdict, when the jury in the Patterson case filed in today. Judge J. A. Hawkins warned the packed courtroom that any demonstration would result in the perpetrator being sent to jail and 25 additional National Guardsmen were stationed in the courtroom.

Machine guns that have been mounted at the two entrances to Court Square each day were removed today, but the weapons still were kept trained on the streets leading to the jail.

Montgomery, Ala.

Three Companies Relieved

Maj. Joe Starnes, of Guntersville, commanding the Second Batallion of the 167th Infantry, announced today that three of five companies, about 60 men, would be relieved from duty tonight.

Today, like yesterday, saw Scottsboro's streets with only the normal number of pedestrians and traffic, in contrast to the thousands that poured in from the mountains Monday to hear the trials.

The ninth negro, Roy Wright, 14, of Chattanooga, will be turned over to juvenile authorities, who if after investigation find him an incorrigible, can surrender him to the Circuit Court.

The attacks occurred aboard a coal car on a Southern Railway freight near Stevenson, Ala., March 24.

Five of seven white companions of the girls were thrown from the train after a fight with the negroes, who on boarding the car at Stevenson ordered them to jump.

The white youths notified the Stevenson station agent and he called authorities, who intercepted the train at Paint Rock, arrested the negroes, and brought the girls here for treatment.

Death Sentence Pronounced On Eight Negroes

Advertiser

4-10-31

Montgomery, Ala.

Mistrial Ordered For 9th Life Asked But Jurymen Insist On Electrocution

Trial Judge Weeps

Execution Of Youths Who Attacked Girls Set For July 10 At Kilby Prison

NEW YORK, April 9—(AP)—The International Labor Defense today made public two telegrams officials said they had sent to Alabama.

One to Judge J. A. Hawkins said, "The Associated Press reports you 'will welcome an investigation of trial.' Accept offer to investigate. Sending attorney. Meantime we demand stay of execution and opportunity to investigate and prepare for new trial or appeal. We demand the right for our attorney to interview defendants and obtain formal approval as defense counsel. And above all, we demand absolute safety for defendants against lynching."

The other, to Gov. Miller, said, "International Labor Defense conducting investigation past ten days has facts of frameup against nine negro workers convicted to electric chair in 48 hours. Lawyers appointed by court only interested in catering to prejudices of mob. In the name of hundreds of thousands of workers we protest this legal lynching. Sending attorney to make motion for new trial or appeal. Demand stay of execution."

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., April 9—(AP)—Stoically calm, eight negroes today were sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby prison on Friday, July 10, for an attack on two young Huntsville girls while they were "bumming" their way home on a freight train.

Although the State asked life imprisonment for the ninth negro, a 14-year-old boy, the jury was discharged because seven members insisted on the death penalty.

While the negroes showed no emotion Judge J. A. Hawkins's eyes were wet with tears as one after the other he pronounced the sentence. It was the first time the jurist had pronounced a death sentence in his five years on the bench.

Attorneys here said they believed passing death sentences on eight persons for the same offense on the same day was without parallel in the history of the nation and certainly in Alabama.

Sentences were passed shortly after the third jury which heard the evidence in the trial of five of the negroes yesterday, filed into a packed court room and amid strained silence reported its verdict "guilty," and fixed the punishment of all five at death.

A mistrial was ordered for the ninth negro, Roy Wright, 14, of Chattanooga, after a jury deliberating 19 hours was unable to reach an agreement as to punishment. Polled in open court, the jury stood seven for the death penalty and five for life imprisonment, the punishment asked by the State.

The negroes sentenced to death were: Charlie Weems, 20, and Ozie Powell, 16, Atlanta; Eugene Williams, 19, Andy Wright, 17, Clarence Norris, 19, Heywood Patterson, 17, all of Chattanooga Olen Montgomery, 17, Monroe, Ga.. and Willie Robertson, 17, Columbus, Ga.

Arraigned before Judge Hawkins for sentence, each of the negroes claimed to be under 21 years of age, and denied ever having been convicted for any crime before.

Stephen Roddy, of Chattanooga, chief of defense counsel of six attorneys, five of whom were appointed by the court, entered a motion for a new trial for Heywood Patterson, which automatically stays sentence.

Roddy also announced that the convictions would be appealed to the Supreme Court. He cought unsuccessfully at the opening of the trials Monday to gain a change of venue.

Shortly after the jury in the fourth trial was discharged the negroes in a bus under military escort, were taken back to Gadsden for safe keeping, pending action on the motions for a new trial and an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The trials attracted widespread attention and Monday thousands from throughout this mountainous section of the state gathered here to seek admission, but only men over 21 were admitted to the court room.

A cordon of National Guardsmen sent here to preserve order kept the crowd back from the court square, while machine guns were mounted at both entrances to sweep the streets. Machine guns also were mounted at the jail to guard all approaches.

Advertiser

There was no disorder, however and only once was there any demonstration, noisy cheers greeting the announcement of the verdict of death for the first two negroes tried, Weems and Norris.

4-10-31

As each of the other three juries came into the court room, Judge Hawkins warned the packed court room that any demonstration would bring a jail sentence, and the verdicts were announced in almost strained silence.

Roddy based his motion for a new trial for Patterson on the demonstration that greeted the first verdict. He said the jury trying Patterson was in an adjoining room and that the demonstration might have influenced the verdict returned yesterday.

The trials attracted wide spread attention, the International Labor Defense of New York, sending Judge Hawkins and Gov. Miller, at Montgomery telegrams demanding a change of venue and charging the procedure "an attempt at legal lynching of nine young negro workers on framed-up assault charges."

Judge Hawkins declared the charges "absurd" and the trials proceeded. Roddy speaking for defense counsel, also took issue with the New York organization, which said the attorneys for the negroes were "openly advocating quick execution."

The attacks on the girls, aged 17 and 20, Huntsville mill workers, occurred on a fast freight train between Stevenson and Paint Rock on March 24. The girls told authorities they were returning from an unsuccessful search for work in Chattanooga, "bumming" their way home on the train.

At Stevenson, the girls said, the negroes boarded the car and ordered seven white youths accompanying them to jump off. The white youths refused and a fight insued in which five were thrown from the train and two others knocked unconscious. The negroes then attacked them, the girls said.

The youths thrown from the open coal car notified authorities and a posse intercepted the train at Paint Rock and arrested the negroes. The white youths who were held as material witnesses were released today. None was ever called to testify.

Russellville, Ala., Times
Thursday, April 9, 1931

Negro Attackers Sentenced to Death In Electric Chair

✓

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 8—Ignoring the demands of the International Defense League of New York for a change of venue for nine negroes charged with attacking two young Huntsville white girls, the trial of the third negro was completed and given to the jury at 10 o'clock this morning.

The trial judge, prosecutor and defense counsel took exception to the charges of the Labor Defense League that the negroes were being "railroaded."

Judge J. A. Hawkins called court as usual to complete the trial of Heywood Patterson, seventeen, the third to go on trial.

Two of the negroes, Charlie Weems and Clarence Norris were sentenced to death on yesterday.

Shortly after the jury retired on the Patterson case five of the remaining six negroes were placed on trial and the selection of another jury began. The sixth negro, Roy Wright, fourteen, was turned over to the juvenile court.

National guardsmen with mounted machine guns, continued to guard.

Death Sentences To Be Appealed

Advertiser
4-15-31

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 14.—(AP)—The International Labor Defense will appeal the death sentences imposed on eight negroes by a Jackson County jury at Scottsboro last week for attacking two young white girls on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., March 14.

Douglas McKenzie, district representative, and Allan Traub, New York attorney, issued a statement today after a conference with the negroes, who are in the Jefferson County Jail for safekeeping, charging that the negroes had been "framed" and that a notice of appeal would be filed immediately.

The statement charged that the negroes were being "railroaded to their death for a crime of which they are absolutely innocent" and that their "so-called confessions were obtained after brutal beatings by the sheriff and his deputies."

Montgomery

"This legal courthouse lynching is part and parcel of the whole campaign of the Southern Bourbons to smash down any resistance on the masses of negroes against unemployment, starvation, and denial of every right supposedly granted the whole people of this country," the statement said.

Ala.

The negroes were convicted by a jury in Jackson Circuit Court and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, July 10.

The negroes were brought here after rioting last Friday in the Etowah County Jail at Gadsden, where they had been held for safekeeping.

'President Of Alabama' Is Asked To Pardon 8 Condemned Attackers

Advertiser
4-12-31
Montgomery, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., April 11.—(AP)—A cablegram, dated at Kobenhavn and with the remainder of the origin unknown, and addressed "The Honorable President of Alabama, Scottsboro, Ala.," was received here today and has been forwarded to Judge A. E. Hawkins, of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, who presided at trial in Scottsboro in which eight negroes were sentenced to the electric chair for attacks on two white girls.

The message was signed by E. Dehnbkdehn and reads "I beg you to pardon the eight persons condemned to death. My good wishes for you."

Judge Hawkins, notified at his home in Port Payne, refused to comment on the message other than to profess curiosity as to origin.

He added that he has given no official recognition to several telegrams received during and since the trial. He denied reports that he is considering issuing bench warrants for the authors of the telegrams.

Birmingham, Ala. News
Sunday, April 12, 1931

Offensive Meddling In The Scottsboro Trials

It is difficult to speak with patience of the attitude of the International Labor Defense toward the trials at Scottsboro of the nine Negroes charged with criminal assault on two Huntsville girls. The telegrams sent by George Maurer, head of the International Labor Defense, to Judge J. A. Hawkins, who presided over the trials, and to Gov. Miller, are offensive in their wording and their unwarranted insinuations. Judge Hawkins announced that he would welcome an investigation of the trials, and in a telegram in reply Maurer continued the offensive tone of his earlier demands."

If the International Labor Defense knows anything at all about the case, it must know that the trials were conducted in an orderly manner, that there was no mob violence, and that all the legal forms were strictly observed. It must know also that there was no doubt that the authorities got the right men, and that they gave them the full protection of the law. Judge Hawkins and the officers of the law deserve commendation for the orderly manner in which they conducted the entire proceedings. In the absence of violence and in view of the fact that the proceedings were conducted in strict accordance with the law, the activity of the International Labor Defense in the case can be regarded only as meddling.

Without having heard the detailed testimony, this newspaper would not undertake to say whether or not the severity of the sentences was merited. It is satisfied, however, that the trials were conducted in full accordance with the law, and with the legality of the proceedings the International Labor Defense has no ground for dissatisfaction.

5-9-31

The death sentence hanging over the eight lads of color down in Alabama has aroused the conscience of our people and under the leadership of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People every effort will be exerted to see that these unfortunate boys are not legally lynched. These convicted youths are accused of raping two hobo white girls who shared the same freight car with them as they "beat" their way over the road. For the alleged violation of these wayfaring girls, nine boys, some sixteen and seventeen years of age, have been condemned to death. The boys deny strenuously the charges made against them, the girls could not identify six of them and the examining physicians avow that the girls showed no evidences of violence, yet an Alabama jury deliberated only ten minutes before bringing in a verdict of guilty. This farce and sham of justice is a disgrace to the State of Alabama and to the American commonwealth but tyranny, injustice and murder will continue until society reaches a higher plane of civilization. All that can be done is to seek a new trial and if that is denied appeal to the Governor. It looks as bad for the boys as it does for the State of Alabama to those who love justice, honor and fair play.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3339

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
Tuesday, April 14, 1931

CHARGE NEGROES RAILROADED TO ELECTRIC CHAIR

Representatives of Labor Defense League Interview Eight Convicted for Attacking Girls.

Birmingham, April 14.—(A. P.)—Two representatives of the International Labor Defense Tuesday isued a statement in behalf of the organization charging that the conviction and sentencing to death of eight negroes at Scottsboro last week for attacking two young white girls was "a frame-up from start to finish."

The statement followed a conference between Allan Traub, New York attorney, and Douglas McKenzie, district representative, and the negroes, who are in the Jefferson county jail here for safe keeping. Chattanooga was said to be southern headquarters.

"The report of our investigators of the conviction of eight negro workers in Scottsboro April 6 shows conclusively that the whole trial and subsequent sentencing to death in the electric chair of these young boys is a most brazen frame-up," the statement said.

"These boys are being railroaded to their deaths for a crime of which they are absolutely innocent. The so-called 'confessions' of the boys were obtained after brutal beatings by the sheriff and his deputies.

"The boys still show the marks of these beatings and the effects of similar attacks made on them while in the jail at Gadsden.

"Clarence Norris, who turned state's evidence, was terrified into doing so by being threatened the first night of the trial with being shot by the sheriff if he did not, he said.

"This legal courthouse lynching is part and parcel of the whole campaign of the southern Bourbons to smash down any resistance of the masses of negroes against unemployment, starvation and the denial of every right supposedly granted the whole people of this country. . . .

"The International Labor Defense will defend these boys. It will engage the best available legal talent in both north and south to undertake the legal defense. Notice of appeal will be filed immediately in all cases. . . . Demonstrations of protest will be and are being held all over the country."

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
Tuesday, April 14, 1931

34

Labor League Representatives Confer With Eight in Jail.

Birmingham, Ala., April 14.—(A. P.)—Two attorneys representing the International Labor Defense league conferred with eight negroes under sentence of death for attacking two young white girls on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., several weeks ago.

The attorneys, Allen T. Taub and Douglas McKenzie, of New York city, interviewed the negroes in the county jail Monday night, and again Tuesday. They said they would report to the league's headquarters in New York, and what action to be taken, if any, would be determined later.

The negroes were said to have told the attorneys they were mistreated in the Etowah county jail at Gadsden, where they were held for safe-keeping pnding their trial.

National guardsmen were called out to quell a riot participated in by them before they were brought here.

The negroes were convicted in the Jackson county circuit court at Scottsboro last week and the death sentence pronounced by Judge A. H Hawkins, who presided at their trials. The execution date was set for July 10.

A ninth negro, who also was brought here, is being held pending action of juvenile court authorities.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Friday, April 10, 1931

DOOMED NEGROES STAGE RIOT TODAY IN GADSDEN JAIL

Eight Sentenced to Die For Attack Upon White Girls Seek Make Escapes

Gadsden, Ala., April 10—(AP)—Protesting against their sentences, eight negroes condemned to death at Scottsboro yesterday rioted in the Etowah county jail and only subsided after extra guards had been summoned and they were placed in irons.

The negroes were returned here under military escort after being sentenced for attacks on two Huntsville girls aboard a freight train, shouted demands for special food, beat on the cell bars and tore up the bedding.

Oaths they hurled at the court, officers and white people generally were heard some distance from the jail, and Sheriff T. L. Griffin, who occupies an apartment on the lower floor of the jail, removed his family for the night.

Sheriff Griffin appealed to military authorities for aid and Col. W. M. Thompson, commanding the 167th infantry, and Capt. C. C. Whitehead, commanding Company F of the 167th infantry, went to the jail.

With sufficient guards to prevent an attempted break, the "bull pen" in which the negroes was confined was opened, and guards went in and subdued the negroes, handcuffing them in pairs.

Extra guards were placed on the jail throughout the night and today, pending removal of the negroes to Kilby prison at Montgomery.

When finally quieted and asked what was the matter, one of the negroes replied, "We just don't like that death sentence."

The negroes, Clarence Norris, 19, Eugene Williams, 19, Heywood Patterson, 17, Andy Wright, 17, all of Chattanooga, Charlie Weems, 20, and Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta, Willie Robertson, 17, Columbus, Ga., and Olen Montgomery, 17, Monroe, Ga., were brought here under military escort with Roy Wright, 14, whose case resulted in a mistrial. The others were all convicted by juries.

The 14-year-old negro was confined in a separate cell and did not participate in the riot.

Sheriff Griffin said this morning all was quiet and that during the day the negroes would be removed to Kilby prison. The sheriff expressed the belief that the negroes had sought to lure the jailer into the "bull pen" to quiet them, so they could overpower him and escape.

WILL WELCOME ANY PROBERS

Fort Payne, Ala., April 10 (AP) Judge J. A. Hawkins, trial judge who sentenced eight negroes to death at Scottsboro, Ala., yesterday following conviction of attacking two white girls, today reiterated that he would welcome an investigation of the trial which the International Labor Defense of New York has said it will make.

"Let them come on," Judge Hawkins said. "I still say I will welcome any investigation of the trial they want to make. However, it seems to me that they are investigating at the wrong time. I wonder what interest they have in the case and whether the defendants are members of the organization."

In its telegram to the judge, the International Labor Defense said an attorney was being sent to investigate, "meantime we demand stay of execution and opportunity to investigate and prepare for new trial or appeal. We demand the right for our attorney to interview defendants and obtain formal approval of defense counsel, and above all we demand absolute safety for defendants against lynching."

During the trial the International Labor Defense wired Judge Hawkins a protest "against an attempt at legal lynching of nine young negro workers on framed up assault charges."

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
Wednesday, April [illegible], 1931

Death Penalties Are Upheld by High Court

Montgomery, Ala., April 8.—Three death sentences, including Tom Robertson, negro, accused of slaying Grover Boyd and precipitating the disorders at Emelle, last July 4 and 5, last Thursday were confirmed by the Alabama supreme court and the dates of execution set for May 15.

In addition to Robertson, the sentences of Spencer Bates, Sumter county negro, and Willie Brown, Houston county negro, were confirmed by the high court, which denied the appeals of each.

Robertson was convicted of participating in the slaying of Grover Boyd, young white man at Emelle, as the outgrowth of a dispute over an automobile battery sold to one of Robertson's sons.

After the slaying of Boyd, a son of Robertson's, Esau, was lynched by a mob, and two other negroes were killed during a search by posses for Tom and two of his sons. Neither of his sons has been apprehended.

Bates was convicted of slaying Thomas H. McKinstry, near Livingston, August 28th, and robbing him of $11. Mrs. McKinstry waiting for her husband's return from work, heard him cryout and ran to his assistance to find him dead.

Willie Brown was convicted of slaying Gussie Mae Jackson during the spring 1930, by beating and cutting her to death.

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
Friday, April 10, 1931

EIGHT CONDEMNED NEGROES ATTEMPT RIOT IN PRISON

Protest Against Their Death Sentences By Cursing And Fighting.

ARE PUT IN IRONS

National Guard Called Upon To Subdue Unruly Prisoners At Gadsden.

Gadsden, Ala., April 10 (AP)—Protesting against their sentences, eight negroes condemned to death at Scottsboro yesterday, rioted in the Etowah county jail, and only subsided after extra guards had been summoned and they were placed in irons.

The negroes who were returned here under military escort after being sentenced for attacks on two Huntsville girls aboard a freight train, shouted demands for special food, beat on the cell bars and tore up the bedding.

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JUDGE WILL WELCOME INVESTIGATION OF TRIAL

Fort Payne, Alabama, April 10 (AP)—Judge J. A. Hawkins, trial judge who sentenced eight negroes to death at Scottsboro, Alabama, yesterday following conviction of attacking two white girls, today reiterated that he would welcome an investigation of the trials which the International Labor Defense of New York has said it will make.

"Let them come on," Judge Hawkins said. "I still say I will welcome any investigation of the trial they want to make. However, it seems to me that they are investigating at the wrong time. I wonder what interest they have in the case and whether the defendants are members of the organization?"

In its telegram to the judge, the International Labor Defense said an attorney was being sent to investigate, "meantime we demand stay of execution and opportunity to investigate and prepare for new trial or appeal. We demand the right for our attorney to interview defendants and obtain formal approval of defense counsel. And above all we demand absolute safety for defendants against lynching."

During the trials the International Labor Defense wired Judge Hawkins a protest "against an attempt at legal lynching of nine young negro workers on framed up assault charges."

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
Saturday, April 11, 1931

GUARD AGAINST RENEWED RIOTS

Judge Ready for Investigation of Negroes' Trials.

Gadsden, Ala., April 10 (AP).—Precautions were taken tonight to prevent a recurrence of rioting by eight negroes in the Etowah county jail who were condemned to die for assaults upon two white girls.

The negroes became disorderly after they were brought here from Scottsboro where they were sentenced to death yesterday. They said they were protesting against their sentences but Sheriff T. L. Griffin said he believed they were trying to lure the jailer into their cell to overpower him and escape.

The negroes tore up bedding and shouted curses against the court and citizens. They were subdued by guards and placed in irons.

While the riot was in progress, Trial Judge J. A. Hawkins reiterated that he would welcome an investigation of their cases. An inquiry into the trials had been announced in a telegram sent to the judge by International Labor Defense in New York.

"I still say that I will welcome any investigation of the trial they want to make," Judge Hawkins said.

The Labor Defense telegram said an attorney was being sent to aid the negroes and demanded "absolute safety for the defendants against lynchings."

Brunswick, Ga., News
Friday, April 10, 1931

NEGROES FACING DEATH IN CHAIR RIOT AT GADSDEN

Eight Condemned to Die For Assault on Two White Girls on Train Revolt in County Jail

ALL PLACED IN IRONS FOLLOWING OUTBREAK

Oaths Hurled at Court, Officers and White People—Demand Special Food, Tear Up Cots and Beat Walls.

Gadsden, Ala., April 10. (AP)—Protesting against their sentences, eight negroes condemned to death at Scottsboro yesterday, rioted in the Etowah county jail, and only subsided after extra guards had been summoned and they were placed in irons.

The negroes, who were returned here under military escort after being sentenced for attacks on two Huntsville girls aboard a freight train, shouted demands for special food, beat on the cell bars and tore up the bedding.

Oaths they hurled at the court, officers and white people generally were heard some distance from the jail, and Sheriff T. L. Griffin, who occupies an apartment on the lower floor of th jail, removed his family for the

Sheriff Griffin appealed to authorities for aid, and Colonel W. M. Thompson, commanding the 167th infantry, and Captain C. C. Whitehead, commanding company F of the 167th infantry, went to the jail.

With sufficient guards to prevent an attempted break, the "bull pen" in which the negroes was confined was opened, and guards went in and subdued the negroes, handcuffing them in pairs.

Extra guards were placed on the jail throughout the night and today, pending removal of the negroes to Kilby Prison at Montgomery.

When finally quieted and asked what was the matter, one of the negroes replied, "We just don't like that death sentence."

The negroes, Clarence Norris, 19; Eugene Williams, 19; Heywood Patterson, 17; Andy Wright, 17; all of Chattanooga; Charlie Weems, 20, and Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta, Willie Robertson, 17, Columbus, Ga.; and Olen Montgomery, 17, of Monroe, Ga., were brought here under military escort with Roy Wright, 14, whose case resulted in a mistrial. The others were all convicted by juries.

The 14-year-old negro was confined in a separate cell and did not participate in the riot.

Sheriff Griffin said this morning all was quiet and that during the day the negroes would be removed to Kilby Prison. The sheriff expressed the belief that the negroes had sought to lure the jailer into the "bull pen" to quiet them, so they could overpower him and escape.

Welcomes Probe

Fort Payne, Ala., April 10. (AP)—Judge J. A. Hawkins, trial judge who sentenced eight negroes to death at Scottsboro, Ala., yesterday following conviction of attacking two white girls, today reiterated that he would welcome an investigation of the trials which the International Labor Defense of New York has said it will make.

"Let them come on," Judge Hawkins said. "I still say I will welcome any investigation of the trial they want to make. However, it seems to me that they are investigating at the wrong time. I wonder what interest they have in the case and whether the defendants are members of the organization?"

In its telegram to the judge, the International Labor Defense said an attorney was being sent to investigate. "Meantime, we demand stay of execution and opportunity to investigate and prepare for new trial or appeal. We demand the right for our attorney to interview defendants and obtain formal approval of defense counsel, and above all we demand absolute safety for defendants against lynching."

During the trials the International Labor Defense wired Judge Hawkins a protest "against an attempt at legal lynching of nine young negro workers on framed-up assault charges."

Durham, N. C. Herald
Thursday, April 9, 1931

THIRD NEGRO GETS DEATH FOR ATTACK

Two Juries Deliberate Fate Of Three Others Charged With Assaulting Girls

Scottsboro, Ala., April 8.—(AP)—Two Jackson county juries tonight deliberated on evidence presented in the trial of six Negroes charged with attacking two young white girls who were "bumming" their way on a freight train.

Three Negroes already have been convicted with the death penalty for the offense.

One jury considered the fate of five Negroes, four aged 17 and the fifth 16, for whom the death penalty was asked, and the other that of Roy Wright, 14, for whom the state agreed not to ask execution.

The 14-year-old Negro was placed on trial shortly after the other jury had retired. The two girls appeared for the state, and the Negro was the only defense witness. He admitted he was present but denying participating in the attack.

The trial of the five was interrupted shortly after noon for another jury to return a verdict of conviction of 17-year-old Heywood Patterson, Negro. Conviction carried the death sentence. Two other Negroes, Charlie Weems, 21, and Clarence Norris, 19, were convicted by a jury and sentenced to death yesterday.

Judge J. A. Hawkins, presiding, today said charges in a telegram signed by the International Labor Defense of New York, were "absurd." He had "appointed able members of the Jackson county bar to defend them" and said "personally will welcome any investigation."

The labor defense telegram said attorneys defending the Negroes had pronounced themselves in favor of spedy executions and termed the trials on "framd up assault charges."

LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS

APR 11 1931

INJECTING PREJUDICE.

Eight Negroes have been sentenced to die for assault upon two white girl hoboes who found themselves in the same box car with the Negroes.

Presumably a case was made out for the fact of assault. Presumably it was proved that the assaults were committed by Negroes in the car, though it is less certain that all the Negroes took part. There is one incident in connection with the case, however, which casts doubt upon the fairness with which the trial was conducted. One, or a group of idiots in New York sent a message to the presiding judge, charging that the Negroes were being tried on "trumped up" charges, that "legalized lynching" was being practiced and that something was going to happen to the judge if the Negroes were not acquitted. It was a fool message from a lot of fools, and it's effect upon a jury when read to them was sure to be inimical to the chances of the men on trial. Natural resentment would make that certain.

And the judge read the message and the jurors learned of it!

It was more than an "error of judgment", as the Greensboro News calls it. It was a direct aid rendered by the judge to conviction not based on evidence. It was as the Greensboro News says further evidence that there are judges who "haven't the judical qualification to judge a dog fight." In all probability if there were anybody interested enough and with means enough to appeal, the case would be sent back for retrial.

NEW YORK TIMES

APR 8 - 1931

JURY CONDEMNS 2 NEGROES.

Guardsmen Eject Part of Crowd From Alabama Court.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 7 (AP).—A Jackson County jury late today convicted two of nine Negroes charged with attacking two young Huntsville white girls beating their way aboard a freight train, and fixed the penalty at death in the electric chair. The prisoners are Charlie Weems, 21 years old, of Atlanta, and Clarence Norris, 19, of Chattanooga. The jury was out nearly two hours.

The court room was jammed when the verdict was announced and a demonstration followed that caused National Guardsmen to eject a number of persons before order was restored. This was the first disorder since the trial opened yesterday.

Trial of the third of nine Negroes indicted, Haywood Patterson, 17, of Chattanooga, was started immediately, with the same witnesses testifying.

Judge J. A. Hawkins announced the receipt of a long telegram from Huntsville, Ala., signed "the Labor Defense League" of New York City, demanding a change of venue for the Negroes and protesting "the attempt at legal lynching." The telegram said the judge would be "held personally responsible."

Lynchings-1931
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

3340

EXTRA GUARD NEEDED TO SUBDUE NEGROES

Commercial Appeal

Eight Sentenced to Die Riot in Alabama Jail.

4-11-31

Memphis Tenn.

GADSDEN, Ala., April 10—(AP)—Protesting their sentences, eight negroes condemned to death at Scottsboro yesterday, rioted in the Etowah County jail and only subsided after extra guards had been summoned and they were placed in irons.

The negroes who were returned here under military escort after being sentenced for attacks on two Huntsville girls aboard a freight train, shouted demands for special food, beat on the cell bars and tore up the bedding.

Oaths they hurled at the court and officers were heard some distance from the jail and Sheriff T. L. Griffin, who occupies an apartment on the lower floor of the jail, removed his family for the night.

Sheriff Griffin appealed to military authorities for aid, and Col. W. M. Thompson, commanding the 167th infantry, and Capt. C. C. Whitehead, commanding Company of the 167th infantry, went to the jail.

With sufficient guards to prevent an attempted break, "the bullpen," in which the negroes were confined, was opened and guards went in and subdued the negroes, handcuffing them in pairs. Extra guards were placed in the jail throughout the night and today pending removal of the negroes to Kilby prison at Montgomery.

Didn't Like Death Sentence.

When finally quieted and asked what was the matter, one of the negroes replied, "we just don't like that death sentence."

The negroes, Clarence Morris, 19; Eugene Williams, 19; Heywood Patterson, 17; Andy Wright, 17, all of Chattanooga; Charlie Weems, 20, and Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta; Willie Robertson, 17, Columbus, Ga., and Olen Montgomery, 17, of Monroe, Ga., were brought here under military escort with Roy Wright, 14, whose case resulted in a mistrial. The others were all convicted by juries.

The 14-year-old negro was confined in a separate cell and did not participate in the riot.

Sheriff Griffin said this morning all was quiet and that during the day the negroes would be removed to Kilby prison.

FORT PAYNE, Ala., April 10.—(AP)—Judge J. A. Hawkins, trial judge who sentenced eight negroes to death at Scottsboro, following conviction of attacking two girls, today reiterated his previous statement that he would welcome an investigation of the trials which the International Labor Defense of New York has said it will make.

"Let them come on," Judge Hawkins said. "I still say I will welcome any investigation of the trial they want to make. However, it seems to me that they are investigating at the wrong time. I wonder what interest they have in the case and whether the defendants are members of the organization."

Judge Hawkins came here yesterday after discharging the jury in the fourth case, which resulted in a mistrial because seven of the jurors held out for a death penalty for Roy Wright, 14-year-old Chattanooga negro, for whom the state had asked life imprisonment.

EIGHT MEN TO DIE AFTER GALA RAPE TRIAL

Afro-American

4-18-31

Scottsboro Had "Arrangement Committee" to Boost Affair

Baltimore Md.

BOY, 14, SPARED

Jury Disagrees on Lad's Fate After 24 Hours.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala.—With eight men on their way to the electric chair after a record day's death convictions, the fate of 14-year-old Roy Wright, charged with the others of committing a wholesale assault on two white hobo girls traveling in a freight car, hung in the balance when the jury disagreed after 24 hours deliberation.

The state's attorney sought the death sentence for the boy after the girls testified that all nine of the men took their turn in attacking them.

Was Gala Day

The trial was a gala day for this section. Ten thousand white mountaineers and villagers laid aside their work and came to town the day of the trial. A special "arrangement committee" was appointed by the town authorities and business men to boost hte attendance on the affair.

When the trial was called, every bit of the space in the court-room was filled and thousands milled about the streets and in the courtyard which was under guard of the troops. Machnie guns had been set up in the entrances of the building and at strategic points around the courthouse.

It was mutually agreed that the defendants would be tried in pairs, and "justice" was dispensed in rapid fashion as jury after jury, after short deliberation, returned verdicts of guilty. The white girls identified their assailants; the assailants denied the attacks and jury agreed with the white girls and after the last verdict was rendered, Judge J. A. Hawkins sentenced the following men to death in the electric chair on July 10: Charlie Weems and Ozie Powell, Eugene Williams and Andy Wright, Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson, Olen Montgomery and Willie Robertson.

Subdue Them

Following the conviction of the men, which court attendants declared sets a record for death convictions in 24 hours, the men were taken to Gadsden where they were placed in the "bull pen."

Here they were beaten into submission after they were alleged to have staged a riot and demanded special food. They were placed in irons.

A number of labor bodies charge that the eight men were railroaded to their doom and have made protests against the trial.

Governor Miller at Montgomery, received protests in the case from the International Labor Defense in New York, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights of New York, and the Anti-Imperialist League of the United States. The governor declined to comment.

The alleged attacks occurred March 24, when the nine youths were beating their way on a freight train with the two white girls and their five male companions. According to the story of the white girls, the white boys were thrown from the car, and they were attacked.

When the train arrived here the alleged rapists were removed from the train and placed in the local jail. Preparations were being made to lynch them when the members of the mob were forced to seek warmer quarters due to a drop in the temperautre and before the coldwave was over, troops were here to guard the prisoners who were later taken to Gadsden.

Workers, Negro, White!

Daily Worker

Stop the "Legal" Lynching of Nine Negro Boys in Alabama!

4-10-31

AT Scottsboro, Alabama, the southern white ruling class is now engaged in lynching 9 Negro boys from 16 to 20 years of age. The lynching is carried on in "legal" form in the courthouse, while outside of the courtroom an armed mob organized by wealthy "leading citizens" of that community and supported by one thousand soldiers of the Alabama National Guard are "superintending" the lynching of these defenseless boys.

New York, N.Y.

There have been ten "illegal" lynchings in the United States already this year.

The present lynching of 9 defenseless boys is no different from any other brutal murder and burning on a public square, except that a pretense is being made to go through all of the "forms of the law" but with the open understanding—known to every member of the mob—that the same results will be attained—the swift and sure death of the victims without the slightest shadow of a real defense.

Only about three weeks ago these Negro boys were arrested and already eight have been convicted at lightning speed amidst the cheers of the mob, and condemned to death. The lynching of the ninth boy is now proceeding, with the helping of the judge, of all the state's officers and the so-called attorneys for the defense.

If the prisoners were wealthy southern white "gentlemen," they would have been given ample time, even to the extent of many weeks or months, to prepare their defense. But these boys are members of a race and class which are considered only as material for exploitation of their labor by the idle parasite class which rules the South. Therefore they are given no real chance to defend themselves. Their attorneys are appointed by the same court which has already guaranteed to the mob the **"same results"** as would be obtained by a public burning on the city streets. Some of the defense attorneys are reported to have declared themselves in favor of speedy execution of the boys whom they are supposed to defend.

The Communist Party of the United States calls upon all workers and all exploited farmers in the vicinity of this legal lynching and throughout the whole country and the world to rally to the defense of these boys of our class and to stop the **"court-house lynching."**

The reason for this murderous treatment of working class boys is not far to seek. The parasite landlords and capitalist classes of the South are uneasy because they see a movement of awakening amongst the Negro and white workers of the backward southern communities. The capitalists and landlords fear that this movement of organization will destroy the basis of their super-exploitation of southern labor, agricultural and industrial.

The Trade Union Unity League and the Communist Party are succeeding in awakening thousands of Negro and white workers to understand the need of organizing militant trade unions and their own working class political Party, the Communist Party, to fight for the interests of the working class, black and white. In the present terrible suffering of 10,000,000 unemployed workers and their families in this country, white and Negro workers can find no way out of mass hunger except by organizing together in unemployment councils (as they are doing) and compelling relief at the expense of the capitalist class. The parasite landlords and capitalists of Alabama know that the uniting of Negro and white workers on an equal basis in revolutionary trade unions will be a long step in breaking the power of the parasite classes of the South.

The southern ruling class therefore proceeds to whip up at every opportunity the wildest hatred against the Negro farming and industrial workers. They preach and publicly encourage in their newspapers the systematic and open murder of Negro workers. Wherever possible the stigma of "rape" is attributed to the Negro race by the cultivation of hysterical lies, without any possibility of defense. They try to enlist the white workers in their beastly lynching crimes, knowing that with the working class divided into black and white, the workers of either race can never effectively oppose the peonage and wage slavery under which they suffer.

The mass murders with stake and rope which are the classic "institution" of the southern ruling class, have aroused so much scandal that in several recent instances the lynchers have sought to attain the same results by these heartless and hypocritical pretenses of a "legal" procedure which, in swiftness, brutality and ignoring of the rights of the defendant, are no different from the most cold-blooded "illegal" lynching.

The terrorization of the Negro working class and tenant farmers, which has continued ever since the end of the Civil War, has the same purpose as slavery—**cheap labor power, peonage and a docile working class.**

The terror is directed chiefly against Negro workers and tenant-farmers, share-croppers, etc. But also it is directed against white workers wherever the white workers show the slightest tendency to resist the exploitation of the greedy southern bosses. The murder of the textile strike organizer, Ella May Wiggins, at Gastonia, and the murder of five textile strikers in Marion, S. C., and the recent kidnapping and attempted lynching of two white organizers, Coder and Hurst, at Dallas, Texas, are evidence that the southern ruling class directs its crimes clearly against all of the working class who resist their exploitation.

The Communist Party of the United States calls upon the white workers of Alabama, the white workers of the whole South and the whole United States **to make the cause of the Negro workers their own cause. We call upon both Negro and white workers to unite and to rally to the defense of these 9 Negro boys who are being lynched in Scottsboro.**

The Communist Party calls upon all working class and Negro organizations to adopt strong resolutions of protest, and to wire these to the governor of Alabama and to the Daily Worker. But wires to such capitalist officials alone will do no good, you must organize at the greatest possible speed mass meetings and militant mass demonstrations against this crime. Let the southern ruling class know that the working class will not tolerate further continuance of their bloody crimes against our class!

Certain "reformist" organizations, claiming to represent the interests of the Negroes, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Universal Negro Improvement Association, the Urban League, etc., are, in fact under the leadership and control of middle class reformists who, we are perfectly aware, cannot be depended upon to rally those organizations in defense of these helpless boys of Scottsboro. These reformist leaders can be expected, as usual, only to betray the Negro masses, and in this case it is easy to betray by pretending to believe that these boys are getting a "legal trial," whereas these reformists claim only to be "against illegal lynching." The Communist Party calls upon the rank and file members of these organizations nevertheless to give their support to the campaign to save these defenseless Negro boys.

We demand a united front of all working and farming masses of this country to stop the legal lynching at Scottsboro.

Workers, black and white—organize monster mass meetings, militant demonstrations! Let the southern ruling class know that we will tolerate their crimes against our class and against the persecuted Negro race no longer!

The death penalty for lynchers! Stop the legal lynching at Scottsboro!

CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
COMMUNIST PARTY OF U. S. A.

Nine At A Time In Alabama

Journal and Guide

THAT the eight youths ranging from 15 to 20 years of age who have been tried and given death sentences in Alabama for alleged criminal assault upon two young women received fair trials is very doubtful indeed. The fact that the jury refused to grant the state attorney's request for a verdict of life imprisonment for the ninth boy, 14 years of age, and stood seven for the death penalty until hopelessly deadlocked, shows that the juries trying these youths were accentuated by a determination to give the entire nine of them the extreme penalty of the law.

4-18-31

These nine defendants were given a trial in Scottsboro after an angry populace had made repeated efforts at staging a lynching party and all but Roy Wright, age 14, were convicted and sentenced to death in the electric chair. Alabama at least deserves to have something said for it since it did succeed in preventing the death of these men by a mob of lynchers. That is the usual course pursued in that state for similar offenses. But the circumstances surrounding the trial were not such as to indicate that it was free from the lynching hysteria. The scene of the trial drew upwards of 10,000 persons from the surrounding territory; the National Guard machine-gun squad guarded the two entrances to the court square, and sentries posted at the doors of the court house searched all persons entering for weapons. When the verdict of death was announced as to the first two on trial it was greeted by such a wild demonstration that several persons had to be ejected from the court room. Such a scene is certainly not conducive to the calm deliberations which should prevail when men are on trial for their lives. Then, too, it took only four days to complete the cases of eight men on trial for their lives. This is another indication of the mob hysteria rather than the cool and calm deliberations of a court of justice.

One of the defendants, Roy Wright, was only 14 years of age. In his case the state's attorney did not ask for the death penalty, the only concession made. We doubt if there is another state in the Union which would place a youth of this age on trial in a court of record. But perhaps in Alabama there are no juveniles when they are accused of crimes of this nature. In his case the jury could not agree as to punishment, seven jurors holding for death in spite of the fact that the state did not ask it, so a mistrial was ordered.

The evidence reported by the dispatches, both for and against these men, was very meagre so that from this distance it is extremely difficult to say how strong the state's case actually was. But defense attorneys are not satisfied and in the case of Heywood Paterson they have asked for a new trial while in the cases of the rest an appeal has been noted to the Supreme Court. It certainly is hard to believe that all eight of these men doomed to their death were actually guilty of the crime for which they have been convicted. In most cases of this nature there appears to be a greater desire to satisfy a demand for vengeance than to get at the real facts and we would not be surprised if this is not the case in this instance.

SCOTTSBORO JURY INDICTS NEGROES

True Bills Returned Against Alleged Attackers Of Huntsville Girls

Advertiser

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., March 31.—(AP)—A special Jackson County Grand Jury today returned true bills against nine negroes ranging from 14 to 20 years in age, in connection with an attack on two young Huntsville girls on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., last Wednesday.

4-1-31

The Grand Jury returned two joint indictments against the negroes and nine separate counts in two cases. The negroes were brought here under escort from Gadsden, where they have been held for safe keeping, for arraignment and were immediately returned to the Etowah County Jail to await trial next Monday.

Montgomery, Ala.

The negroes were arrested at Paint Rock shortly after the attack occurred by a posse that intercepted the train, after being informed of the crime by five white youths, companions of the girls, who were thrown from the train by the negroes.

After their arrest the negroes were brought here, and Sheriff M. L. Wann and his deputies, reinforced by 10 citizens, stood guard inside the jail to prevent a crowd of 300 mountaineers and others who gathered outside from taking the prisoners.

The following day, the negroes were removed to Gadsden under military escort to await action of the Grand Jury and trial.

The girls told authorities that they had been to Chattanooga to seek work and on failure, donned overalls and with seven white youths boarded the train to "bum" their way home. At Stevenson 12 negroes climbed into the coal car where they were riding and ordered the white youths to jump out.

When the youths refused a fight ensued and five of them were thrown from the train and the other two, semi-conscious, were held under guard while the negroes attacked them, the girls said.

The youths thrown from the train, notified the station agent at Stevenson and he called authorities who stopped the train at Paint Rock. Three of the negroes escaped.

INDICT NINE NEGROES FOR ATTACK ON GIRLS

Commercial Appeal

Must Face Charges at Scottsboro, Ala., for Assault.

4-1-31

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., March 31.—(AP)—A special Jackson County grand jury today returned true bills against nine negroes ranging from 14 to 20 years in age, in connection with an attack on two young Huntsville girls on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., last Wednesday.

Memphis
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Guarded in Jail.

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GUARDS ORDERED IN NEGROES' TRIAL

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 4.—(AP) A detachment of 70 national guardsmen has been ordered here Monday to preserve order during the trial of nine negroes, aged 14 to 20, charged with attacking two white girls, 17 and 20 years old, on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., ten days ago.

The guardsmen will escort the negroes here from Gadsden, where they have been held for safekeeping, since their arrest. The negroes were brought here from Paint Rock where the freight train was intercepted and they were arrested. A crowd gathered and Sheriff M. L. Wann asked for national guardsmen.

Constitution

4-5-31

The negroes entered pleas of not guilty when arraigned Tuesday, although Sheriff Wann said six of them had confessed and implicated the other three. The nine were identified by the victims, and also by seven white youths who accompanied the girls in bumming their way from

Atlanta, Ga.

Chattanooga, Tenn., to Huntsville, Alabama.

Lynchings-1931
Legal Punishment for Rape.

3341

Alabama

3341

STATE MURDER OF EIGHT NEGRO YOUTHS SET FOR JULY 10; PROTESTS GROW

Daily Worker
4-11-31
New York, N.Y.

I L D Demands New Trial or Appeal--Sends Attorney South—Needs Funds at Once

T U U L Wires Governor Denouncing Legal Lynchings—Workers to Protest May Day

BULLETIN.

GADSDEN, Ala., April 10.—Showing the utmost militancy in face of their conviction and sentence to death in the mass legal lynching just ended at Scottsboro, Alabama, the eight young Negro workers shouted denunciations of the vicious frame-up and sentence from their cells today. They beat on the cell doors, tore up the lousy, filthy bedding furnished them and protested against the rotten food.

In an effort to further stir up lynch sentiment against them, Sheriff Griffin tried to make out that the youths were attempting a jail break and called in guardsmen who entered the "bull pen," where they are confined, and brutally beat them up, handcuffing them in pairs.

The boss press admits that the youths stated their protests against the death sentence of the Alabama boss court.

• • •

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 10.—With working class resentment mounting and Negro and white workers planning a mighty protest throughout the country on May Day against the legal lynching planned by Alabama bosses for nine young Negro workers, Judge A. J. Hawkins yesterday set July 10 as the date of the State murder of these boys.

Hold Judge Responsible.

Several hours before taking this action, the judge received a telegram from the International Labor Defense denouncing the trial as a legal lynching and advising him that the workers' defense organization was entering directly into the case and is sending an attorney to offer the nine Negro youths, who were "defended" by attorneys who a few days ago were howling for their blood, the services of the I. L. D.

The telegram, a copy of which was also sent to the governor, demanded a stay of execution and protection of the youths against lynching. It warned the judge and the governor that the working class will hold them strictly responsible for the safety of the I. L. D. attorney and of the nine defendants. Governor Miller yesterday declared he would take no action to stop this vicious frame-up and mass murder. The judge continued to speed the youths to the electric chair.

Hostile "Defense" Council in Fake Move.

When sentence of death was pronounced and the date of execution for eight of the young workers set for July 10, the judge asked the workers if they had anything to say. All are reported to have returned a contemptuous "NO."

Following the exposure in the Daily Worker that the attorneys named by the court to "defend" the young workers had previously expressed the wish for a speedy execution, the "defense" counsel, in an attempt to cover up their hostility to the defendants, yesterday entered a motion for a new trial in the case of one of the eight condemned to death—Heywood Patterson, 17, of Chattanooga. Patterson was the third to be condemned. The "defense" counsel asks for a new trial in his case on the grounds that the jury was in an adjoining room and was influenced by the demonstration which greeted announcement of the first jury's verdict of a death penalty for Charlie Weens, 20 of Atlanta, and Clarence Norris, 18, of Chattanooga. That this is just an empty gesture on the part of a hostile "defense" counsel is seen in the fact that they have not made similar demands in the case of the other four who were convicted a few hours after Patterson. This fake gesture serves, however, to further expose the nature of the legal lynching and the tense lynch atmosphere in which the trial of all nine youths was conducted.

I. L. D. Must Have Funds!

The International Labor Defense has sent an attorney to Scottsboro and has demanded the right to interview the nine Negro youths. The I. L. D. is also trying to secure another attorney for this case, and must have funds immediately. The I. L. D. is calling upon the workers to rush funds at once to help in smashing this murderous frame-up by the boss class against nine young workers. Funds should be rushed at once to the national office of the I. L. D., at 799 Broadway. In the meantime all working class organizations should immediately wire their protests to Governor B. M. Miller, Montgomery, Alabama.

T. U. U. L. Wires Sharp Protest

Last night a telegram of protest was sent the governor by the Trade Union Unity League, declaring:

"National Executive Board of Trade Union Unity League, in name of hundreds of thousands of militant white and Negro workers emphatically protests against deliberate and brazen frame-up of the nine young Negro workers in their railroading to the electric chair by the bosses' government of your state.

"We hold the frame-up as a most dastardly crime against the whole working class for which you are directly responsible. We categorically demand that this outrage be stopped."

Protest telegrams were also sent the governor by the League of Strugle for Negro Rights, and the Anti-Imperialist League of the United States.

Communist Party Denounces "Trial."

The Communist Party issued a statement last night denouncing the "trial" as an outrage against the working class and calling upon all the workers, Negro and white, native born and foreign born, to register their indignant protest in telegrams to the governor, in resolutions in their organizations denouncing this crime, and in "a united front of all working and farming masses of this country to stop the legal lynching at Scottsboro."

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights is initiating a nation-wide campaign to stop the legal lynching of these nine boys. Large mass meetings of Negro and white workers will be held in every section of the country to mobilize working class protest. The L. S. N. R. is issuing a call to all working class organizations for a united front against the Alabama landlords and capitalists.

The frame-up of these young Negro workers on a fake charge of rape, with two notorious white prostitutes brought by the bosses to testify against them, their trial and sentence within 48 hours as an additional thrill for a fair now going on in Scottsboro, will be given a mighty answer in the May Day demonstrations in every part of the country and throughout the world.

Negro and white workers! Smash this murderous frame-up! Hold protest meetings! Wire protests to the governor of Alabama! Demonstrate May Day against lynching whether by a boss mob or by the bosses' state.

Local Negro Dies In Chair At Kilby

Advertiser
3-26-31
Montgomery
Ala.

Mose Daniel, Montgomery negro, died in the electric chair at Kilby Prison early this morning for having attacked a young white woman here last Spring.

Daniel entered the death cell at 12:08:20 a.m. today and place in the chair at 12:08:30 a.m. The first shock was turned on at 12:12:12 and kicked off 30 seconds later at 12:12:42. Attending physicians pronounced him still alive, and the second shock was applied at 12:14:31 and turned off at 12:15:01. He was pronounced dead at 12:20:45.

Daniel appeared before the State Pardon Board early this week and pleaded for clemency, but all three members voted to let the law take its course.

Daniel was saved from execution last July by a last-minute appeal to the Supreme Court taken by Seal Finklestein, young attorney, who was killed in an automobile accident near Prattville before he could argue the case.

Another attorney argued the case and the Supreme Court recently affirmed the judgment of the Montgomery Circuit Court.

A company of Birmingham National Guardsmen stood guard at the courthouse here last Spring while the negro's trial was in progress.

Negroes To Die For Assault On Huntsville Girls

Advertiser
4-8-31

Scottsboro Jury Brings In Guilty Verdict For Pair After Short Deliberation

Montgomery, Ala.

Spectators Cheer

Judge Sent Veiled Threat Calling Charges False; Venue Change Is Asked

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., April 7.—(AP)—The first two of nine negroes to face trial for an attack on two young Huntsville white girls who were "bumming" their way home on a Southern Railway freight train March 24, today were convicted and sentenced to death in the electric chair.

While the jury was out for an hour and 55 minutes deliberating the case of Charlie Weems, 21, of Atlanta, and Clarence Norris, 19, of Chattanooga, the first two convicted, trial of Heywood Patterson, 17, of Chattanooga, was begun.

The courtroom was packed when the jury returned from its deliberation of the evidence against Weems and Norris, and when the verdict was announced a demonstration began that was checked only by the ejection of numerous persons from the courtroom.

It was the first sign of demonstration during the trial which began yesterday. Judge C. A. Hawkins, presiding, threatened to clear the room if another demonstration occurred.

Judge Hawkins this afternoon announced that he had received a telegram from Huntsville signed "The International Labor Defense, New York City," charging that the negroes were being tried on "trumped up" charges and demanding a change of venue and new trial for all of the negroes.

The telegram protested the "attempt at legal lynching of negro workers on framed up charges," and added that Judge Hawkins would be held "personally responsible." Huntsville police were asked to seek the sender, but late today reported they had been unsuccessful.

This mountain town of 2,300 population seemed almost deserted today, as few of the estimated 10,000 coming here yesterday only to fail to gain admission to the courtroom, returned.

National Guard machine gun squads, their snub-nosed weapons menacing the two entrances to the court square, lolled in the sunshine watching the everyday business of the town proceed.

Sentries posted at the doors and other strategic points also relaxed the vigilance that marked their attitude yesterday, but all persons seeking entrance to the courthouse were halted and were searched for weapons.

The trial of Weems and Norris moved rapidly today, the State unexpectedly resting after calling five witnesses in addition to three who testified yesterday. The witnesses included the second victim of the negroes who identified them, and two men who saw five of the seven white youths accompanying the girls, thrown from the train near Stevenson.

The two negroes were the only witnesses called by the defense. Weems denied participating in the attack but accused the seven not on trial, and Norris accused all eight, but denied his own guilt.

Selecting a jury to try Patterson was finished in a short time and his trial was interrupted for the other jury to report. The same witnesses were being called by his trial as testified against Weems and Norris.

Indications were that the trial could be completed tomorrow forenoon, and the case of one or more of the others called.

Those awaiting trial are: Andy Wright, 17, Chattanooga, Willie Robertson, 17, Columbus, Ga., Olen Montgomery, 17, Monroe, Ga., and Ozie Powell, 16, Atlanta. Two others, Roy Wright, 14, and Eugene Williams, 16, both of Chattanooga, will be turned over to juvenile authorities for disposition.

LEGAL-LYNCH 8 BOYS

WHOLESALE DEATH SENTENCING IN ALA. OF MERE BOYS CHARGED WITH RAPING 2 WHITE PROSTITUTES "BUMMING" RIDE ON FREIGHT TRAIN — MOB THREATENED TRIAL — CHANGE OF VENUE DENIED—14 YEAR OLD SAVED—CASES APPEALED

Guardian

Scottsboro, Ala., April 9, 1931.—Eight Colored men ranging in age from 16 to 20 years, today were sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby prison on Friday, July 10, for an attack on two white girl hoboes aboard a freight train March 24.

The men showed no emotion as Judge J. A. Hawkins pronounced sentence.

4-11-31

Attorneys said they believed passing dealth sentences on eight persons for the same offence on the same day was without parallel in the history of the nation.

Boston Mass.

A mistrial was ordered for a ninth, a colored boy, Roy Wright, 14, of Chattanooga, after a jury deliberating 19 hours was unable to reach agreement as to punishment.

The men sentenced to death were Charlie Weems and Ozie Powell, Atlanta; Eugene Williams, Andy Wright, Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson, all of Chattanooga; Olen Montgomery, Monroe, Ga., and Willie Robertson, Columbus, Ga.

Stephen Roddy, Chattanooga, chief of defence counsel, entered a motion for a new trial for Heywood Patterson, which automatically stays his sentence, and announced the other convictions would be appealed to the Supreme Court.

The men in a bus under military escort were taken to Gadsden pending action on the motions for a new trial and appeals.

Communists Sent Telegram To Court

The National Office of the International Labor Defense has sent the following telegrams to the court at Scottsboro and to the governor of Alabama.

"In name masses white and Colored workers we protest attempt legally lynch nine young Colored workers Scottsboro frame-up rape charges. We demand immediate change venue, new trial, dismissal defense lawyers openly advocating quick execution. Imminent danger lynching, mob, guardsmen openly advocate lynching. We hold you responsible for lives these nine workers."

These nine Colored youths were brought to trial in a courtroom packed with a menacing mob, charged with "forcefully ravaging" two white girls who were "bumming a ride" on a freight train near Scottsboro, after throwing the seven white companions of these girls off the train. When they pleaded not guilty, the whole mob strained forward to threaten them with lynching. A motion for change of venue was denied.

A prominent county official admitted to the investigator of the International Labor Defense that the two girls involved are notorious prostitutes.

Death Penalty Is Asked For 2 At Scottsboro Trial

Advertiser

Victim Of Attack Takes Stand To Identify Six Of Nine Accused Negroes

4-7-31

Soldiers On Guard

Montgomery, Ala.

10,000 Gather In Small Town To Hear Cases; Crowd Remains Orderly

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., April 6—(AP)—With bayonets of National Guardsmen restricting spectators to the capacity of the courtroom, the State today began introduction of evidence on which it has asked the death penalty for two of nine negroes charged with attacking two young Huntsville white girls on a train near here 10 days ago.

While hundreds of curious were turned away to gather in the streets, six attorneys appointed to defend the negroes fought for a change of venue and lost, Judge J. A. Hawkins overruling the motion.

The State was granted a severance for the trial of Charlie Weems, 21, and Clarence Norris, 19, and most of the afternoon was spent in selecting a jury which consists of nine farmers, one mechanic and two merchats.

Only three witnesses testified before a recess was taken until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow. One of the victims was the first witness and she identified the two men on trial and four of the others as her assailants, and through a rigid cross examination stuck to her story.

Two physicians were the other witnesses to testify.

In outlining the State's case, the prosecutor asked for the death penalty for both negroes.

As soon as the courtroom was cleared, the negroes, surrounded by National Guardsmen, were taken to the jail where they were under military protection tonight.

The jury selected at 3:50 p.m., to hear the evidence in the first trial is John N. Coffey, farmer, Bridgeport; Birgil Knight, mechanic, Bridgeport; Horace McCrary, farmer, Bridgeport; James D. Allen, farmer, Rash; Ed Matthews, farmer, Olalee; Steve Mitchell, Tupelo; J. A. Galloway, farmer, Scottsboro; Joe M. Kennemer, merchant, Fross Springs; William E. Moore, farmer, Pisgah; Marion Johnson, farmer, Limerock; W. G. Harris, merchant, Hollywood; John Golden, farmer, Princeton.

During the arguments incident to the State's motion for a severance, defense attorneys pointed out that two of the defendants, Roy Wright and Eugene Williams, 15, were under 16 years of age. Under Alabama law, children under 16 years of age must be turned over to the Juvenile Court.

Selecting a jury for the trial of the first two of the negroes proved to be a slow process and most of the afternoon was exhausted before 12 men were selected.

Indications were that the trial would not end before noon tomorrow, with the others to go on trial immediately thereafter. The other five negroes are: Andy Wright, 17; Haywood Patterson, 17; Willie Robertson, 17; Olen Montgomery, 17; and Ozie Powell, 16.

The negroes are charged with attacking the two girls, aged 17 and 20, on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., on March 24, after throwing five white youths accompanying the young women from the train and knocking two others unconscious.

Unlike the crowd that gathered here the night the negroes were arrested with muttered threats and hostile gestures, the vast throng assembling today was curious to see the negroes and the witnesses and hear the evidence.

The court ordered, however, that only those who could comfortably be admitted be let into the court room which seated but a fraction of the number seeking admission. Women and minors also were barred from the proceedings.

A detachment of 100 National Guardsmen under command of Maj. Joe Starnes of Guntersville, escorted the negroes here from Gadsden arriving shortly before 6 a.m., but before they reached the town, hundreds of mountaineers were ahead of them.

The crowd swelled in numbers throughout the morning, but remained orderly.

"It is the largest crowd in the history of Scottsboro," J. S. Benson, editor of The Progressive Age, said, adding: "There are five times as many automobiles in the streets than ever have been at any previous time."

Scottsboro, surrounded by mountains, has a population of 2,300.

Some of those in the crowd were said to have come from as far as 70 miles away. The caravans leading in over the mountains, included every make of automobile, some of them ancient models, trucks, buggies and wagons, while many came on mules and still scores walked into town.

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8 NEGRO ATTACKERS SENTENCED TO CHAIR

Constitution
4-10-31

Mistrial Ordered for Ninth Defendant After 19 Hours' Deliberation by Jury.

Atlanta, Ga.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 9.—(AP) Stoically calm, eight negroes today were sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby prison on Friday, July 10, for an attack on two young Huntsville girls while they were "bumming" their way home on a freight train March 24.

While the negroes showed no emotion, Judge J. A. Hawkins' eyes were wet with tears, as upon one after the other he pronounced the sentence.

It was the first death sentence he had pronounced in his five years on the bench.

Attorneys here said they believed passing death sentences on eight persons for the same offense on the same day was without parallel in the history of the nation and certainly in Alabama.

Sentences were passed shortly after the third jury which heard the evidence in the trial of five of the negroes yesterday reported its verdict "guilty."

A mistrial was ordered for the ninth negro, Roy Wright, 14, of Chattanooga, after a jury deliberating 19 hours was unable to reach an agreement as to punishment.

The negroes sentenced to death were Charlie Weems, 20, and Ozie Powell, 16, Atlanta; Eugene Williams, 19; Andy Wright, 17; Clarence Norris, 19; Heywood Patterson, 17, all of Chattanooga; Olen Montgomery, 17, Monroe, Ga., and Willie Robertson, 17, Columbus, Ga.

Stephen Roddy, of Chattanooga, chief of defense counsel, entered a motion for a new trial for Heywood Patterson, which automatically stays his sentence, and announced the other convictions would be appealed to the supreme court.

Shortly after the jury in the fourth trial was discharged, the negroes in a bus under military escort were taken back to Gadsden for safe keeping pending action on the motions for a new trial and an appeal to the supreme court.

Augusta, Ga. Chronicle
Thursday, April 9, 1931

FATE OF NEGROES IN JURY'S HANDS

Evidence in Trial of Five Completed; Another Gets Death Sentence

Scottsboro, Ala., April 8 (AP)—A Jackson county jury tonight held the fate of five negroes charged with attacking two young Huntsville white girls as they were "bumming" their way home on a freight train.

The trial of the five was interrupted shortly after noon for another jury to return a verdict of conviction against 17-year-old Heywood Patterson, of Chattanooga. The verdict carried the death sentence. Two other negroes, Charlie Weems, 21, Atlanta, and Clarence Norris, 19, were convicted and sentenced to death yesterday.

Judge J. A. Hawkins, presiding, today termed "absurd" a charge made by the International Labor defense of New York, that the negroes were not getting a fair trial. He said he had "appointed able members of the Jackson county bar to defend them," and that he would "welcome any investigation."

The Labor Defense telegram said a representative on the ground had said the attorneys defending the negroes had pronounced themselves in favor of speedy executions.

Stephen Roddy, Chattanooga, chief of defense counsel, said, "I don't see how any one can say we are not striving to see that the defendants are getting the fairest trial from the defense attorneys. If they (the International Labor defense) have anything to present in behalf of our clients, we certainly would like to know about it."

The jury retired with the cases of the five at 4:20 p. m., after eight state witnesses, the same that testified in the two previous trials, had repeated identical stories and the five defendants had denied their guilt.

The five negroes, Olen Montgomery, 17, of Monroe, Ga.; Andy Wright, 17, and Eugene Williams, 19, of Chattanooga; Willie Robertson, 17, of Columbus, Ga., and Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta, each denied his own participation but accused all the others.

Negroes Get Chair For Alabama Attack

Constitution
4-8-31
Atlanta Ga.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 7.—(AP) Jackson county jury late today convicted two of nine negroes charged with attacking two young Huntsville girls aboard a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., and fixed the penalty at death in the electric chair, at Kilby prison, Montgomery. The negroes who went on trial yesterday are Charlie Weems, 21, of Atlanta, and Clarence Norris, 19, of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Lynchings-1931

Alabama

3342

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Humanitarianism In The Scottsboro Case

Contempo

9-31

From a Speech Delivered at Town Hall, New York

Chapel Hill, N.C

By Theodore Dreiser

Vol 1- No. 6

The entire sociological background of the South today remains against the eight Negro boys condemned to die by the electric chair, and has a direct bearing on this Scottsboro case. The severe law, for instance, inflicting the death penalty for rape, is, in itself, a commentary on what I mean. It is so definitely aimed at the negro male, and so very lenient to his white equivalent, who miscegenates without serious opposition. But mixing the blood of a white man with that of a Negro woman is certainly the same as mixing the blood of a black man with that of a white woman. The difference is that of tweedledee and tweedledum. Black is black and white is white, and the one shall be the slave of the other. During the trials of these nine Negro boys in Scottsboro, for instance, people so fiercely believed rape had been committed, and so wanted this vicious so-called justice, founded on their prejudice, that hooting and yelling and rejoicing and applauding not only followed the verdict of death, but this outcome of one trial was being uproariously cheered while the jury was behind closed doors deciding on the verdict of the ninth Negro boy. But is it not obvious that these 10,000 people in the yard outside the courthouse, tumultous in their mob-unity, and with a band of music blaring forth their conception of what was fair and necessary, made the trials of the remaining Negro defendants only slightly above a lynching in the ordinary sense of the word?

Instead of trying them as human beings, they were tried as black men. Neither of the girls made any charges until confronted by the excited townspeople—though on the night of the alleged rape at the first examination they were calm; at the second one, and by the time they had been pumped and cross-questioned insistently, they were unnerved. The evidence of intercourse was of such nature that it could have occurred two or three days prior to the alleged crime, besides there was almost no evidence even of this nature regarding Victoria Price, who testified that she didn't scream, and that she delayed getting off the train until she wanted to. Furthermore, these two girls from affidavits gathered by the new defense are lacking in moral discretion. The fact that these girls were in overalls and alone on a freight train, made the very nature of the situation provocative.

The only evidence of the force necessary to make intercourse actual rape was that of the two girls for the state, and denied by the defense for the boys, was a gun or two which were supposed to have been in the Negro crowd, but had not been fired, also so-called and supposedly drawn knives, although apparently no more than jack knives. Yet Victoria was likewise carrying a knife!

With evidence so sketchy and contradictory, and with the whole case so hastily prepared and presented, and, above all, with the rule of the mob over the jury, I believe that a change of venue should now be granted; the trial moved entirely away from this frantic spirit of opposition by the people.

Scottsboro's Testimony

Contempo

By John Dos Passos

Chapel Hill, N.C

7-31

Our legal procedure is a kind of map of our ruling-class mind. In the South, in a case where Negroes are involved, every white man is given the luxury of being part of the ruling class. You have to realize how physically and emotionally undernourished and starved the small tenant farmers, the small storekeepers, the jellybeans and the drug-store loafers who make up the lynching mobs are, to understand the orgy of righteousness and of unconscious sex and cruelty impulses that a lynching lets loose. The feeling of superiority to the Negro is the only thing the poor whites of the South have got. A lynching is a kind of carnival to them.

Vol 1- No. 6

Reading the testimony in the Scottsboro case, you feel all that—the band outside the courthouse, the mob starved for joy and sex and power hanging around, passing from mouth to mouth all the juicy details of the raping. You feel that filthy prurient joy in the courtroom, the stench of it is in the badly typewritten transcript of the court procedure, in the senseless ritual, the half illiterate, poorly phrased speeches of the judge and the solicitor, the scared answers of the two tough girls, evidently schooled for days in their story, sometimes seeming to enjoy the exhibitionism of it. *Evidently the court stenographer didn't take the trouble to put down what the colored boys said in their own words; what they said didn't matter, they were going to burn anyway.*

From the testimony you can't make out what actually did happen on that trainfull of white and colored boys between Chattanooga and Paint Rock. But you do reach the certainty that it couldn't have happened as told in court and that, even granting that the two girls were forced by some Negroes or whites on the train, there's no particular reason why it should have been the boys who are now held in jail to give the righteous churchgoers of Jackson County, Alabama, the pleasure of legal lynching. Whatever happened, however it turns out, what a pretty picture that case offers (a man has to have a strong stomach anyway to read legal testimony without gagging) of a little corner of civilization in Mr. Hoover's greatest nation on earth. What a story of miserable starved lives, prostitution, rape and sickness comes out between the lines of the courtroom testimony.

Lynching and race hatred, like pellagra, are diseases of poverty and ignorance.

As far as I can see, since the days of the old Abolitionists, no one has had the courage to publicly face the problem until the International Defense and the Communist Party came along with their slogans of equality and cooperation between white and Negro workers. For that reason alone, I think those organizations deserve support, even by outsiders who do not subscribe to their entire creed. . . .

BILLS OF EXCEPTIONS IN SCOTTSBORO CASE NUMBER 790 PAGES

Courier 10-17-31
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15—Latest developments in the fight to save the eight Negro boys condemned to death after mob-dominated trials in Scottsboro, Ala., are given as follows by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People:

1. Marc Connelly, author of the "Green Pastures," Pulitzer Prize play, has thrown his support to the N. A. A. C. P. in the defense fight, sending his personal check for $25 to aid in the legal expenses.

2. The bills of exceptions to the Alabama Supreme Court filed for certification number 790 pages and have been called one of the most masterly presentations of this kind ever seen in an Alabama court.

3. A firm of expert legal stenographers worked day and night, declining all other work meanwhile, in order to complete this document. The stenographic expenses of this document alone were $600 giving an idea of the enormous cost of such a defense as the N. A. A. C. P. is making in behalf of the eight condemned boys.

4. The importance of this document is stressed by the N. A. A. C. P. which points out that upon it hangs the entire case for the boys. Commenting on it, Walter White, the Association's Secretary, said:

"A court of appeal does not hear new evidence. It passes only on the record of the original trial. It is for this reason that the N. A. A. C. P. felt absolutely obligated to spare no effort to make the bills of exceptions and transcript of record, on which the boys' lives really depend, as perfect and comprehensive as possible. Lawyers and court officials who have seen the documents submitted agree in characterizing them as masterly presentations.

"The Supreme Court of Alabama will pass only on the record of the first trial as quoted in the bills of exceptions, together with such other data whose admission the attorneys have procured.

"The stenographic cost of $600 will give the layman an idea of the expense connected with a case of this magnitude. We hope and believe that friends of justice and of the Negro's cause will help us in this critical time when such heavy bills have to be met—and met promptly."

DEMOCRAT
BAKER, ORE.

SEP 16 193[illegible]

DARROW IN A NEW FIGHT

Clarence Darrow, the noted or notorious criminal lawyer, has been retained by the National Association of Colored People to represent eight Alabama negro youths who have been sentenced to death for alleged attacks upon white girls. The case will be heard on appeal by the state supreme court in January.

Darrow has appeared in many unworthy cases since he defended Haywood and Pettibone for the murder of an Idaho governor many years ago. His most criticized effort in recent years was in behalf of Loeb and Leopold, the confessed murderers of an inoffensive little Chicago boy, who were saved from the gallows by his efforts. He has many times used his great ability to keep the law from meting out justice to guilty men.

This however is by way of introduction to a statement of belief that Mr. Darrow's current effort is a commendable one. There is real doubt in the minds of many who have studied the Alabama cases. They have attracted comparatively little attention in the United States, but have been widely discussed in Europe. The feeling seems to be that the eight may be guilty but that the evidence upon which they were found so would not have been considered sufficient outside the south. One comment we read said in effect that they were convicted of being negroes.

Since there is a doubt and the youths are condemned to death it is reassuring that their case is to be presented to the state supreme court by so able an advocate as Mr. Darrow.

Th fate of eight penniless negro boys has attracted less attention than its importance merits when the righteousness of our whole system of justice has been challenged abroad as a result of their conviction on what is termed flimsy evidence.

Darrow and Scottsboro

News - 9-26-31
New York, N.Y.

We should prefer to see the N. A. A. C. P. play a little less politics in its manouvers. It would gain a far greater measure of respect from the race if it took the race more honestly into its confidence. There is a great and growing need for an organization like the N. A. A. C. P. even in New York if that organization should stop playing favorites and make it a practice to give full credit to individuals and organizations who strive to serve the cause of the race. In that way the commendable efforts of such of its officials as Mrs. Daisy Lampkin—who is now beginning a New York drive—will gain not five, but fifty thousand new members for its ranks.

The N. A. A. C. P. for example claims in its most recent release that it has engaged Clarence Darrow, America's most celebrated lawyer to handle the appeal of the nine doomed Scottsboro boys. J. Louis Engdall, of the International Labor Defense, states that Darrow because of his age and health refused to engage in their defense. The I. L. D. further makes the uncontested charge that its own lawyers are handling their defense and that the attorneys of the N. A. A. C. P. have definitely and officially withdrawn from the case.

The National Association can gain undying credit and achieve monumental results for the progress of Colored America only by telling the truth and giving full credit where credit is due. When it veers from this straight and narrow path, it seals its own doom, it deserts the cause of the people when it so loudly professes to serve. The association has not gained the solid and large community support, its great program demands. Part of that is due to conditions among the race, to traits of the race and to a variety of circumstances beyond its control. The other part is due to the practices, policies and personnel of the official stoff of the N. A. A. C. P. itself.

NEW YORK TIMES

SEP 15 193[illegible]

Darrow to Appeal for 8 Negroes.

Clarence Darrow has been retained by the National Association of Colored People to aid in arguing the appeal before the Alabama Supreme Court of the eight Negro youths sentenced to death at Scottsboro, Ala., last April after their conviction for having attacked a white woman.

The engaging of Mr. Darrow was announced yesterday at the association's headquarters, 69 Fifth Avenue. Argument will be made on Jan. 18, 1932.

Lynchings-1931
&
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3343

N. A. A. C. P. and I. L. D. Expend Over $10,000 In Defense of Scottsboro Boys; I. L. D. Receipts Larger

[illegible]

Financial Reports Of Two Organizations Fighting To Prevent "Legal Lynching" In Alabama Show Communist Body Collected Twice As Much Money As N. A. A. C. P.

7-[illegible]-31

Both the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the International Labor Defense released this week financial statements of the Scottsboro Defense Case. A comparison of the two statements show that the Communist organization has raised twice as much money as has the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Altogether the two agencies have raised $9,448.60. The two agencies have spent $10,805.51. Of this amount more than $10,164.49 has actually been spent in the defense of the boys. The difference being I. L. D. campaign expenses to raise the money for the communists.

Communists Raise More Money

The International Labor Defense reports a net income, exclusive of campaign expenses, of $5,840.70 against $2,966.94. The report of the I. L. D. is only through June 30, while the report of the N. A. A. C. P. is through July 17. On the prosecution of the case the I. L. D. has spent $6,358.32 against $3,806.17 spent by the N. A. A. C. P., the expenditures of the latter organization not including postage, mimeographing and multigraphing and stenographic services. The accounts of the I. L. D. were certified to by George Primoff, Certified Public Accountant, and the N. A. A. C. P. has announced that its books will be audited by W. C. Heaton and Co., Certified Public Accountants. Both agencies carry a deficit. The N. A. A. C. P. reports a deficit of $839.23 to date, and the I. L. D. reports a deficit of $517[illegible] June 30.

ILD Has Spent $6,358 Scottsboro Case to Date

[illegible]

7-24-31

NEW YORK—A statement dated July 15 and attested to by a certified public accountant shows that the International Labor Defense has received a total of $5,840.70 from all sources for the Scottsboro defense and has spent a total of $6,358.32. The organization on July 15 was thus $517.62 "in the red."

[illegible]

"HER SIX NIGGERS"!

The Union

New York.—A detailed report proving a frame-up and prejudice in the Scottsboro case has been made by the American Civil Liberties Union, which instigated an investigation by Miss Hollace Ransdall, formerly on the staff of the Baltimore Sun and the Economics Library at Columbia University. Miss Ransdall spent considerable time in Alabama interviewing the girl prostitutes involved in the case, Judge Hawkins and other officials and citizens in Scottsboro. The report in full will be issued next week by the International Labor Defense.

The report is a merciless indictment of "justice" as meted out to Negroes by the white ruling class in the South, condemning the Scottsboro case as a farce. The report in its detailed analysis of the facts involved in the case and the economic status of the Negro in the south, continues "as one southerner in Scottsboro put it, "we white people just couldn't afford to let these niggers get off because of the effect it would have on other niggers." 7-23-31

Accuses District Attorney Of Frame-Up

Cincinnati, Ohio

The report directly accuses the district attorney of framing the nine Negro boys, as related to the investigator by Victoria Price. Miss Ransdall states in her report to the Civil Liberties Union that the girls spoke to her frankly because, "never having met any other attitude on the Negro question, they both assumed that this was my attitude also, and therefore spoke to me as they thought all respectable white people speak."

Miss Ransdall continues, "Victoria identified the six Negroes she claimed attacked her with a cock-sure, emphatic manner that impressed the jurors and the trial spectators very much. She caught on at once to what was wanted of her—identilcation without any confusing hesitations to slow up the death sentences. Ruby, on the other hand, was annoying from the start because she could not say which ones attacked her. So Victoria with port, condescending manner, passing looks with the prosecuting officials at such stupidity, told Ruby which ones she must say attacked her, in order not to get mixed up and identify some of these Victoria had previously said were 'her six niggers,' as she put it."

The report, which is 32 pages in length, concludes: "The trial, such as it was, is over. Interest and passion in the case have cooled. Examining the present status of the accusers and the accused to see what horrible things have been brought about by this 'crime', heralded in Alabama papers as the most heinous ever committed in the State, or the whole country, as a matter of fact, this is what one finds:

"The convicted 'criminals', nine terrified, bewildered young Negroes lie miserably in their death cells in Kilby prison, while the two girls, against whom this 'most heinous' crime was allegedly committed, enjoy excellent health and are delighting in the publicity brought to them. They both told me with great satisfaction that their pictures had been taken and put in the papers; that writers had been after their stories; that they had received money from various sources because of the case. The injury they are supposed to have suffered has meant little to them except profit and excitement which they have found pleasing.

"With this contrasting picture in mind can any person not poisoned with race prejudice still maintain that the Scottsboro trial was 'fair and just' and that the nine Negro boys deserve execution?"

Protest World Wide

Backing the legal defense of the nine Scottsboro boys inaugurated by the International Labor Defense, a world wide mass movement is developing on a large scale. Governor Miller of Alabama is reported by the A. P. to have received 1678 protests. These wired and written protests coming in the main from organizations, represents as official estimate reports, approximately one hundred ten million workers and their sympathizers.

The A. P. also reports a new demonstration in Cologne, Germany, in front of the American consulate, where groups of people led by a woman protested the Scottsboro frame-up. The banners read, "Free the Negroes." Many protests are also pouring in to President Hoover at Washington.

Former Official Of Tennessee Here In Behalf Of 8 Negroes

Ex-Attorney General Sent To Defend Scottsboro Blacks By Labor Group

Advertiser
Montgomery
Ala
7-21-31

George Chamlee, of Chattanooga, Tenn., former Attorney General of Tennessee, and reputed principal counsel for the International Labor Defense on behalf of the eight negroes now under sentence of death for criminally assaulting two young white girls near Scottsboro, Ala., was here to see the condemned men yesterday.

He appeared at the capitol yesterday morning with a letter addressed to Warden George P. Walls, of Kilby Prison. This letter which was from Circuit Judge A. E. Hawkins, who presided at the trials of the eight negroes at Scottsboro, introduced the bearer, Mr. Chamlee, and authorized him to see the condemned men who are now being held at Kilby for safe-keeping while appeals in their cases are pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama.

After presenting this letter to State Board of Administration officials, and before going to the Prison, Mr. Chamlee stopped at the offices of the clerk of the Supreme Court and the Reporter of Decisions for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, where he made particular inquiry as to the form used in Alabama for the preparation of transcripts and bills of exceptions in appealed cases.

In the afternoon he proceeded to Kilby where he handed the letter from Judge Hawkins to Warden Walls. The Warden, who accompanied the visitor when he interviewed the eight condemned negroes, said Mr. Chamlee told them to be good prisoners and behave themselves; that he had seen their mothers; that he had appealed their cases and was looking out after their interests. To this admonition and information, he said, the negroes answered "Yes, sir"—that was all.

His Second Visit

It developed that this was Mr. Chamlee's second conference with his clients. On the occasion of his first visit some weeks ago, it appears, the mothers of several of the negroes were at the prison to see them, and advised them not to have anything to do with anybody else concerning their cases but Mr. Chamlee.

Yesterday, at the capitol, Mr. Chamlee told officials he was in Montgomery to see to it that the negroes received the benefit of their full legal rights. He did not say by what individual or organization he is employed, but it was learned that on the occasion of his first visit it was made known he was representing some "Defense" organization which presumably is the so-called International Labor Defense, from various branches of which many telegrams and letters on behalf of the eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro, have been received at the Governor's office.

Further confirmation of the announcement that the communistic propaganda in which a number of negroes in Tallapoosa County were steeped by an organizer from Tennessee until the recent trouble there which nearly cost the life of the sheriff and caused the death of one negro, was precipitated, was pitched principally upon exhortations to protest against the Scottsboro sentences, is contained in a telegram received yesterday at the office of Gov. Miller, from Youngstown, Ohio. This telegram which was signed "Pete Chavka, chairman," stated:

Demand Eight's Release

"We, 2,500 workers gathered at South Slav Picnic, Youngstown, Ohio, vigorously protest the massacre of negro workers slaughtered at Camp Hill for protesting the attempted legal lynching of the Scottsboro boys. We demand death penalty for the murderers of the negro workers and for the immediate release of the Scottsboro nine young workers also freedom for the all class war prisoners in the State of Alabama."

Other telegrams of like tenor, commenting on the flareup in Tallapoosa County, were received from various parts of the country. All were placed in the executive file with the scores of similar communications that have accumulated in recent weeks.

Solicitor Sanford Mullins of Tallapoosa County, who was here yesterday on business, said that all is quiet in Tallapoosa, and no further trouble is anticipated.

NYACK, N. Y.
DAILY NEWS

JUL 1 6 1931

YES OR NO?

(New York World-Telegram)

If eight white men were accused of assaulting two white girls who were riding as hoboes on a freight train in a Northern State wouldn't testimony as to the character of the two girls be admitted as a proper and necessary part of the defense?

Then why shouldn't the same apply in the case of eight Negroes accused of committing such a crime under similar circumstances in a Southern State?

These eight Negroes in Alabama have been convicted and sentenced to die. They were convicted largely on the testimony of the two girls in a community so violently predjudiced that militia had to guard the courthouse during the trial.

The verdict and sentence aroused strong protest in other parts of the country. The case has been appealed. A new trial is sought. Defense Counsel George W. Chamblee, of Chattanooga, declares he has proof that the reputations of the two girls were bad. He also says:—

"As a man who has practiced law in the criminal courts for many years I assert that the most dangerous and one of the most undependable witnesses in the world is a woman testifying in an assault case against a Negro."

Is that true, or isn't it?

Does American justice condemn a Negro to death on evidence that would not be sufficient to convict a white man?

These are ugly questions of long standing.

It is time they were squarely faced and answered.

TO THOSE WHO ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT ALABAMA'S SENSE OF JUSTICE

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

7-24-31

To those anxious friends of justice who are sincerely exercised about the possible fate of the nine Alabama Negroes now under sentence of death on a charge of criminal assault, let this be said: From the moment of their apprehension till now the Negroes have been under the protection of the laws of Alabama, they have been in the hands of the courts, and they will continue in the hands of the courts until their fate is finally determined. They have appealed to the Supreme Court and it will be January before we shall know whether the men are to have a new trial or whether the original sentence shall be enforced.

In the meantime the situation presents its difficulties. Ordinarily there is no popular debate over the merits of a case pending before the Supreme Court. It is hardly proper, especially in criminal cases, for partisans to argue on the stump and in the press the merits of the issue presented to the court. Under ordinary circumstances there would have been no discussion of the "Scottsboro case," but there is nothing ordinary about the present circumstances. The Supreme Court of Alabama is receiving instructions, none too politely worded, as to what it shall do with reference to these nine Negroes. At least that is the effect of all of the speeches, editorials and telegrams that have been written "protesting against the legal lynching" of these men, even though most of these have been aimed at Governor Miller, due to the fact that the agitators have looked upon the Governor as a sort of court of last resort. Alabama newspapers have thought it necessary to reply to criticisms of their State which they believed to be unjust.

Now the Supreme Court of Alabama is and has always been a conservative, honorable body of men. No tradition of cruelty and callousness tarnishes its name. There has never been a scandal which involved the name of the court.

The Supreme Court of Alabama as it stands is morally and intellectually capable of deciding the appeal of the nine Negroes without prejudice or indifference to elementary human rights. We believe these nine Negroes can trust the Supreme Court to be as fair to them as it would be to nine white men. We believe they can trust Governor Miller, when and if their case comes finally under his official notice, to be as fair to them as to nine white men.

We do not believe that these Negroes have been the victims of injustice at any point since their arrest. We do not believe that any of their rights will be jeopardized between now and the end of their sordid story.

The Advertiser satisfied itself at the time of the trial that Alabama had deported itself with dignity, self-restraint and as a State having a sense of justice and love of law and order, that the men were guilty as charged and that there was no occasion for popular agitation about miscarriage of justice, etc. If it had been in any doubt about the matter it would have gladly led the pack in demanding a new deal for the condemned men.

If, however, the Supreme Court, after a careful painstaking review of all the facts and circumstances, concludes that the men are entitled to a new trial, The Advertiser will be satisfied with the decision. In saying this we believe we speak for other newspapers and the leaders of opinion generally in Alabama.

The point we wish to enforce is that nine supposedly friendless Negroes—they are so pictured by their noisy champions—have friends not only on the Supreme bench, not only in the Governor's office, but among the thoughtful, responsible citizens of Alabama generally.

We do not believe that these men have been wronged, but if it turns out that we are in error, we believe the wrong will be righted by the honorable gentlemen on whom rests the responsibility of making the final decision.

This editorial is directed at the Dreisers, the Steffanses, the Einsteins, the New York World-Telegrams, The Nation and other sensitive "liberals" who have questioned whether Alabama is capable of acting justly in this instance. We should like for them to feel reassured and to act a little more sensibly than they have acted to date. Let them cease attacking a State on the ground that it is about to "lynch" nine men, and remember that Alabamians passed up a real opportunity to lynch them at the time of their capture preferring to have them tried in an orderly, decent manner as befits a civilized people.

Lynchings-1931

Alabama

3344

Legal Punishment for Rape

BROOKLYN TIMES

JUN 30 1931

MOTHER PROTESTS EXECUTION OF SONS

Says Colored Lads Facing Chair in South Were 'Framed.'

Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the eight colored youths recently sentenced to die in the electric chair in Scottsboro, Ala., in charges involving two white girls, spoke at a meeting last night in Trinity Baptist Church, 482 DeKalb ave., to protest their execution. More than 600 colored folk attended.

Mrs. Wright and other speakers charged that the case against the eight defendants, who range in ages from 14 to 20, had been "framed" and that a fair trial had been rendered impossible alike by the carelessness and inefficiency of the white defense attorney and by the violent mob feeling which had been aroused.

Creation of a country-wide wave of public sentiment against what was described as the "legal lynching" of the convicted prisoners was described as the only effective means of saving their lives and restoring their freedom.

Funds to aid in covering the expenses of the appeal now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama were solicited from the assemblage.

The Rev. Dr. T. S. Harten, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church and president of the National Afro-Protective League, under whose auspices the meeting was held, presided. Others who spoke were William L. Patterson, New York District secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and a member of the executive committee of the International Labor Defense; Miss Gertrude Stevens, of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, and Dr. Paul Lincoln Jones.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Tuesday, July 7, 1931

GERMANS ASK RELEASE OF NEGRO ATTACKERS

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 6.—(AP) The 1,657th protest against the execution of nine negroes for attacking two white girls at Scottsboro, was received by Governor B. M. Miller today and placed in a huge file marked "Scottsboro protests."

It was a cablegram from Berlin and written in German, 17 words ranging from 3 to 22 letters each, and signed by a German jaw-breaker that defied translation—in the governor's office.

Department of education officials, however, called into consultation, gave the following translation:

"Three hundred thousand members of the proletarian organization in Germany perceive the death sentence against negro youths as an unquenchable disgrace to civilization (stop). Raise flaming protest demand release.

"Community for Civilization Workers."

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
Monday, April 13, 1931

PASTORS CAN AL IN RACE PROBLEM DECLARES WILMEI

Sewanee Professor Says Ministers Have "Terrific" Responsibility.

STRESSES CHURCH'S VALUE

Local Preachers Hear Barber, Colored Leader, Monday, on Relations Progress.

Christian ministers face a "terrific responsibility and a glorious opportunity for service" in helping to solve the race problem, Dr. C. B. Wilmer, professor of practical theology at the University of the South, Sewanee, declared here Monday.

Dr. Wilmer spoke at a special joint meeting of the Chattanooga Ministers' association and the Colored Pastors' association of Chattanooga, sponsored by the Chattanooga interracial commission at the First Presbyterian church Monday morning.

The Rev. J. B. Barber, local colored minister, spoke as a representative of his race, expressing appreciation for the progress that has been made here in race relations and appealing for the aid of the white ministers in helping the negroes to achieve their aspiration of "a chance to live" among decent conditions.

In a biting, sarcastic vein, Dr. Wilmer raked over the coals the type of minister who is content with preaching to his congregation of "the glories of heaven" and the rewards that await the righteous after death. "The rich men will pay you well for that sort of preaching," he told the ministers.

Must Face Task.

It is with the vital, spiritual side of human relationships that the Christian ministers must deal if they are to be worthy of their task, Dr. Wilmer insisted.

"The church has no capacity to decide and no power to enforce any decisions on practical, economic question," he said. "But the church does have something to say on the spiritual side in all questions of human relationships."

After prefacing his remarks on racial problems by saying a great deal on general principles involved in human relationships, Dr. Wilmer declared "we ministers can put across the doctrine of good will and by a little common sense show how much better it is for all concerned that friendly relations be maintained between the races."

"We also can put across the doctrine of love," he said. "By love, I don't mean you have to like everybody. I interpret the word 'love,' as used in the Bible, to mean, fundanemtally, respect for human personality and devotion to the highest ideals in dealing with other people."

Stresses Work's Value.

Dr. Wilmer stressed the importance of the work of the churches in solving racial problems, pointing out that the church "goes on forever," while individual efforts are bound to die out.

The Sewanee professor stated early in his address that he refused to speak on the theme assigned, "Progress in Race Relationships," saying that he had been out of touch with the actual situation while at Sewanee for the past six years.

"I am one of the few preachers," he remarked, "who refuse to speak on a subject involving facts when I don't know anything about the facts."

He announced that his subject was "Christian Ministers and Their Relationships to Human Problems, the Racial Problem in Particular," and added "I realize that with this subject I have taken upon myself the toughest job there is—to convert preachers to the Christian religion."

"The present situation calls for a new orientation of preachers to human problems," he declared.

Scores Politics.

To bring out his point that the church should stick to the spiritual side of human problems, Dr. Wilmer referred to prohibition, scoring preachers who inject the church into the political phase of the fight for prohibition because they consider it "a moral issue."

"To say it is the business of the church to commit itself to any legislation," he declared, "is, in my opinion, contrary to the principles of the Christian religion. Christ wouldn't get law passed and sick policemen on folk to enforce His ideas. But He did die on the cross, never forsaking His spiritual mission to interfere or meddle in governmental affairs."

After expressing the appreciation of his race for the "wonderful progress" here in race relationships, Barber outlined some of the further needs and aspirations of the negroes.

He emphasized the importance of obtaining more playgrounds and other facilities to train the young negroes and of improvements of the streets and sanitary conditions in the negro districts.

Putting the question squarely up to the white ministers, he asked, "When you ask us to turn out a high type of citizenry, aren't you asking us to make brick without straw? Do you realize that the negro children are forced to play and live on the streets where crime is bred because of lack of any recreational facilities and of an environment conducive to the right sort of development?"

He pointed out that the Y. M. C. A. is the only place available for recreation to the negro youth of the city. None of the negro public schols have gymnasiums, he said.

Environment Blamed.

The atrocious crime at Scottsboro, where nine young negroes, several of them from Chattanooga, were tried for attacking two white girls, and other delinquencies of negro youths are the results of the bad environments in which the negroes are forced to live, he declared. "And it is the fault of the community for not helping us to create a better environment," he added.

The speaker praised the work of the Chattanooga interracial commission, of which T. C. Thompson is chairman, for its accomplishments in bettering conditions and for its interest in the welfare of the negroes of the community.

Mr. Thompson presided at the meeting. In a brief opening address, he said that the chief aim of the commission is to help the negro secure economic justice.

A. M. Pennybacker, secretary of the commission and general secretary of the

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GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

APR 11 1931

SPEED VS. RETARDATION.

Even an optimist experiences great difficulty in believing in the even tenor of justice when its administration is so generally characterized by intermittent bursts of speed and tantalizing periods of retardation.

Approximately 10 years ago Albert B. Fall, then secretary of the interior, received from the son of Edward L. Doheny a little brown satchel containing $100,000. Approximately seven years ago Fall was convicted of accepting that cash as a bribe to despoil the nation's resources; yet he resides today on the same ranch which figured so prominently in his bribery with the prison sentence and heavy fine placed upon him still hanging in the balance. Every legal technicality has been resorted to to stay his punishment. Appeals have run the gamut of every court, with his conviction sustained in each instance, until now only the Supreme court of the United States is left; and his next appearance will be before that tribunal. In the meantime the former cabinet member has aged and become broken in health; without funds he pleads inability to pay his fine. These changed conditions are certain to react in his favor and to alter the intention of the original sentence and its application.

Less than a month ago, March 24, to be exact, nine negroes were arrested in Alabama and charged with attacking two white girls who, dressed in overalls, were bumming a ride in a box-car along with a group of hoboing boy friends. On April 9 eight of these negroes had been convicted as charged and sentenced to the electric chair, and the case of the ninth, who was only 14 years of age and for whom the state had graciously refrained from asking the death penalty, was in the hands of the jury. What sort of defense, what part feeling played in the trial as it progressed at such a rate and with troops on guard about the courthouse, may be imagined.

Speed is to be desired in the administration of justice; but there is such a thing as excessive speed and more fundamentally still a standard of consistency. The two extreme cases cited may be purely circumstantial, but the fear is that they but symbolize a general tendency which is not merely confined to courts but continually warps the American viewpoint.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
Saturday, July 4, 1931

THE INTEREST OF RADICALS IN THE ALABAMA CASE

The Academy of Science of Leningrad protests the conviction and the death sentence imposed upon the eight Alabama Negroes, under sentence to die in Alabama for assault in Jackson county.

The Leningrad savants, and propagandists, say that "this act cannot be understood by men of normal psychology, but anything can be expected from America where such legal actions as those against the followers of Darwin took place." This latter reference, presumably, is to the Dayton trial of John Thomas Scopes.

One of the members of the Academy says that the execution "by American imperialists of their unfortunate prey from the exploited class must create a strong protest all over the world."

Political agitators in this country, in Germany, and now in Russia, have sought to make a world scandal of the Scottsboro case. The revolting thing about it is the insincerity of the agitators and the reckless use they make of misinformation. As we have before remarked, these agitators are not moved by humaneness nor by a love of justice which they believe to have been mocked in Alabama. They care no more for these eight doomed men than they care for eight stones by the side of an abandoned road. In fact, they are delighted at the conviction—it is good fuel, of a sort, for the flames which they wish to light. They are seeking converts to communism and hope to do it by convincing the poor and the ignorant that these men are to die only because they are lowly and friendless, and only because the American system of government is vicious.

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.
HERALD

JUL 8 - 1931

THE ALABAMA CASE

In the far South it is considered disgraceful for whites to be bested in a fist fight by blacks. The cause celebre which is attracting attention in Alabama has as its roots the fact that white hoodlums were beaten up in a freight car by black hoodlums, and it was discovered afterwards that two of the whites were girls dressed as boys. The eight blacks, however, were sentenced to be executed for alleged attacks on the girls. The case is completely shot through with race prejudice, according to the testimony of impartial investigators.

As is fairly well known, the higher courts of the South are not prone to be influenced by prejudice of this kind. There is a strong probability that the appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court will result in a better degree of justice being dispensed.

Girls who, dressed as boys, go joy riding in a freight train with boys are doing a dubious thing. When a fight started with the Negro interlopers for possession of the "wayside Pullman" it is scarcely likely that the interlopers regarded their adversaries as others than youths. The disgrace of the Caucasians in being bested by the African-Americans, however, must have been keen. The theory, at least, is that in revenge for the beating administered, the Caucasians testified to the complication which under Alabama law would lead the eight blacks to the noose. The state Supreme court,

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it is generally believed, will most thoroughly analyze the various motives and see that no miscarriage of justice transpires.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 4 1931

BLAMES 'BLACK LAWS' IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Pickens at Pittsburgh Also Says Communists' Plea Has Hurt Negroes's Chances.

PITTSBURGH, July 3.—The conviction and sentencing to death of eight Negro boys in Alabama was declared evidence of the continuance of "black laws" in the South by William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, addressing the conference of the association tonight.

"This Scottsboro case ought to call the world's attention to the fact that, in spite of the Fourteen and Fifteenth Amendments, there are still 'black laws' in the Southern States," declared Mr. Pickens.

"In some respects the issue confronting us from Scottsboro is worse than the massacre at East St. Louis or the burning at Tulsa. East St. Louis and Tulsa were manifestly in the hands of mobs, while the case in Scottsboro, while really of the mob, is technically of the State of Alabama.

"The Scottsboro case is further complicated by the fact that the Communists, who came into it ostensibly to help free the victims of the mob spirit, have almost made them the more hopeless victims political propaganda.

"Without perhaps wanting to do so, they would sacrifice these Negro boys to their party ambitions."

EXPLANATIONS BY NEGRO PASTOR

Editor The Advertiser:

As pastor of St. John A. M. E. Church, Birmingham, Ala., I am extremely grateful to my many friends in Birmingham and other cities in the State, who have evidenced their faith and confidence in me through telegrams, letters and phone-calls that have poured in upon me during last week.

Advertiser

The article which appeared in The Birmingham News of this city referring to a visit made by me to the county jail to see the eight Negro boys who were sentenced to die during their trial at Scottsboro, Ala., has been variously construed. Some have interpreted the article as meaning that I was not interested in these youths and that I was opposed to the boys having a new trial. While the article might have been ambiguous, there is no similarity nor likeness between the view as held above and my real viewpoint. The purpose of my visit was purely an errand of mercy and not to decide who should or who should not be counsel for the boys. I emphatically deny any statement purported to convey to the public that I am opposed to the youths having a new trial or being represented by the best counsel that can be obtained.

Birmingham Ala.

Despite the efforts on the part of some to impugn my motives, I am still interested in the boys and will go about the task of rendering whatever service possible to help them. The St. John A. M. E. Church, of which I am pastor, responded liberally last Sunday to my plea for funds, to be used in buying clothes to take the place of those now being worn by the boys.

H. C. TERRELL.
Pastor St. John A. M. E. Church.
Birmingham, Ala.

NEW YORK EVE POST

JUL 8 1931

EINSTEIN PROTESTS NEGRO EXECUTIONS

Asks Hoover to Save Eight Under Sentence in Alabama

JOINED BY THOMAS MANN

Evening Post Foreign Service
Copyright, 1931, by N. Y. Evening Post, Inc.

BERLIN, July 8.—Professor Albert Einstein has sent a protest to President Hoover against the execution of the eight Scottsboro Negroes. Others to do the same are Thomas Mann, novelist and Nobel prize winner, and Kaethe Kollwitz, German artist.

The Communists, organized into a "committee of intellectuals" by Alfson Goldschmidt, a German writer and well-known Anti-Imperialist, who from personal experience is familiar with Central and South America and the race problem in the United States, are supporting the protest movement.

The Communists desire to undo the effect of the Hoover plan in stabilizing capitalistic prestige by showing the world the brutal injustice prevalent in that capitalistic stronghold, the United States. Therefore committees are being organized in all countries to protest against the Scottsboro execution.

Dr. Einstein, Herr Mann and Herr Kollowitz are sincere humanitarians, but obviously the organizers of the protests, who for weeks have been bombarding the American consulates throughout Germany with letters varying from mild appeals to violent threats, care less for the Scottsboro Negroes than for the opportunity to divert attention from their attempt at world organization.

JERSEY CITY, N. J.
JOURNAL

MAY 2 1931

Letters to the Editor

Communications are given preference if they are less than 300 words.

Contributors must sign their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication. Write clearly, on only one side of the paper.—Ed.

REV. DR. BYRD APPEALS FOR AID OF DOOMED NEGRO BOYS, CHARGING SOUTH LYNCH LAW

Editor Jersey Journal:

According to "The Liberator" and other reliable papers, nine colored boys of tender age have been convicted of a crime upon several white women of Alabama, and are to be hanged on July 10.

The women are admitted to be "tough characters." Their reputation is such that great care should be used in taking their word in a case like this. The boys are minors and it is felt by unbiased persons that they could not have committed the crime they are accused of. However a howling mob of more than one thousand men and women stood threateningly on the outside to lynch the boys if justice should turn them loose. On the inside of the court room a trial was held which was nothing more than to render the verdict the mob outside demanded. The judicial lynching was carried out in swift order, and the boys must die, as we have said, in July.

Several things stand out in this case (a) White women of the South must be believed, however depraved, if they accuse the most innocent Negro or multitude of Negroes of the most foul crime, and in the adjudication of the case Negroes must not "dispute the words of white folks." (b) The courts of the South are very little removed from the category of the "lynchers' mob," with the exception that the state does the lynching instead of the blood-thirsty mob. (c) The tender age of the accused boys had no weight in the trial and under pressure they were forced to do and say whatever the mob in and outside of the court house demanded. (d) The inter-racial commissions of the South do not get busy while these mob riots are going on and pressure trials are being held, but wait until judgment has been rendered and then piously send out resolutions of condemnation while the victims suffer the loss of life. (e) The lawyers appointed by the court in this trial appeared to be in sympathy with the mob, and this made the termination of the trial short. Nothing in Russia or any of the savage islands can surpass this travesty on justice and red-handed murder.

The scene of this trial was at Scottsboro, Alabama—the state of Heflin and Bankhead. What can be done to prevent this foul blot on the escutcheon of America, namely the hanging of these youths for a crime that evidence shows they did not and could not commit? (1) Fair-minded citizens, North, South, East, and West, should protest against this wrong by raising sufficient funds to take this case before the Supreme Court of the U. S. A. and there have a calm and impartial hearing. (2) Moral pressure should be brought to bear upon the courts of Alabama to prevent the consummation of this judicial farce. (3) An impartial investigation should be made of the whole affair and, if any one or two of the boys attempted or committed the crime, punish them, but do not kill nine boys because of what one or two did. And in adjudicating this case due weight should be given the reputation of the boys and the unfortunate bad reputation of the women should be considered. It is time that the courts of the South knew no race or color in meting out punishment and justice. The colored race cannot but think red or any other color that represents rebellion against oppression, if this Alabama judicial lynching is condoned and upheld by the sentiment of America and the courts of the nation.

William A. Byrd.

Lynchings-1931

Alabama

3345

Legal Punishment for Rape

The People's Forum

A Southern White Lady On the Scottsboro Case

6-24-31

I am not of your race but I must tell you this. It does not concern me exactly. It is a perfect shame and outrage the way those miserable curs who call themselves representatives of the law in Alabama, still stand for such savage treatment of intelligent young boys.

New York

Those men who were stupid enough to convict those boys must be far below the average mentality. If they are not, they would be conscious of the fact that those hobo prostitutes were accompanied by perhaps the remainder of a score of boys and men who were aware of the kind of creatures they were.

6-27-31

If they were "girls," as the paper stated, they would have remained at home until an opportunity for decent travel presented itself. Their former environment must have become too "hot" for them and their carryings on, so they decided to get out to new fields of activity. Some of their deeds were telling on them. A group of decent living Negro boys were "handy," so they did what all cowardly knaves do, took the easiest way out, by accusing those fellows of something they probably had not thought of in their lives before.

An incident in my neighborhood helps to convince me that those creatures (foul hussies) would stoop to anything no matter how low, if they can incriminate an honest Negro man. There is in my immediate neighborhood a white woman, her daughter, and small son. The daughter is about eighteen or nineteen (but looks years older) and is left at home all day and part of the night because the older woman has to work. Now this girl instead of doing needle work or keeping her house clean in the older woman's absence keeps open house for every man, who is not afraid to go there, because of being talked about. All through the day married men and boys may be seen paying their daily visits to this hovel.

Recently a Negro boy who always had plenty of spending money, was given a note by this obnoxious creature's brother (secretly of course. He told me himself.) He avoided the house for quite a while. Finally two rough dagoes got him there and locked him in a room with the young woman. The old woman found him there. She apparently was terribly outraged. "This must not reach the ears of our white neighbors," she must have said, because she did all she could to prevent it. She stayed home to take care of her daughter as if something like that needed taking care of. She tried with the help of some underhand characters to incriminate the Negro lad, but his father was quicker than she. He sent the youth right after the incident to a boarding school in Virginia, but the old person didn't know it. She has not made much of a fuss because most of her immediate neighbors are Negroes, and all of them know a thing or two about her daughter. So she keeps quiet.

Those hobo harlots are products of a similar course, it appears. I'd like to talk to them and those objectionable creatures calling themselves men and representatives of the law, too.

Yours truly,
Mrs. R. Dwyer.

P. S. PRINT THIS PLEASE, SO THEY CAN SEE IT AND CRINGE

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
Wednesday, June 10, 1931

The Scottsboro Case.

If there had been any evidence produced to cast doubt upon the guilt of the eight negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls while riding in a box car, and now under sentence of death in Scottsboro, Ala., there might be more sympathy with the insistence of certain groups for a re-trial. The weight of evidence, however, is that the assault did take place. This, if we recall correctly, was substantiated by one of the defendants.

In New York and among certain groups always ready to launch a "relief fund," the case is seized upon for agitation and protest. Mass meetings are being held. At one of these Theodore Dreiser was to preside and the mother of one of the negroes, the one who escaped the extreme penalty, by the way, was to speak.

In Chattanooga on Sunday William Pickens, negro, field secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, complained of these outside groups which are charged with assuming leadership in the movement for a retrial at the expense of those bodies who are relying solely on legal pleas.

Communistic agitators, Pickens declares, are using the Scottsboro case to seek converts among the negroes of the South. When the International Labor Defense first announced that it would defend the cases, Pickens said, many negroes, including himself, were misled into expecting them to proceed in lawful ways without political aims and motives. "It has since developed that it is Communistic propaganda," he said, "and that the plight of these youths is only a vehicle for that propaganda."

He charges the Communists with having threatened every authority in Alabama, offering to "free" the defendants by force, having threatened the conservative counsel for the defense and sought in every way to displace them with their propagandist counsel.

In other words, Pickens is of the opinion that the Scottsboro case is the excuse for another "racket." This is an unfortunate state of affairs. Threats and propaganda will hardly have any effect upon Alabama authorities. If any new evidence has been produced to make their guilt questionable, it certainly has not been made public.

Mr. Dreiser and his associates may be sincere in their agitation against carrying out the penalty of the law, but unless they can disprove the evidence they are rendering a sad service to the eight defendants in Scottsboro jail.

OAKLAND, CAL.
TRIBUNE
JUN 19 1931

AT SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA.

News that the United States Consulate at Leipzig is under guard as a protest against the execution of eight Alabama Negroes, apprises many Americans, for the first time, of the fact those Negroes have been sentenced and there is a question of guilt.

On the face of it, the story is one which would seem to demand investigation and a stay of execution until many reasonable doubts are removed. Briefly: nine young Negroes looking for work were stealing a ride in Alabama. The oldest was 20 years old; two were 19; one 16, three 17; and two 14. It is said they were hiding in different parts of the train and each group did not know the others were nearby.

A fight started in the train and in it were some white boys. At a place called Paint Rock the train stopped and armed deputies arrested the Negroes and let the white boys go. In one car were found two white girls dressed in overalls, with hair cut short.

The Negroes were charged with attacking the girls and there were no witnesses for the defense save the boys themselves. Efforts to secure a change in venue, to a place removed from strong racial feeling, were unavailing. At Scottsboro, where the trial was held, feeling ran high and a fund was raised to prosecute the case. Some of the jurors contributed to that fund. During the hearing a hostile crowd remained outside the court and when the guilty verdict was brought there was a brass band procession.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is convinced the Negro boys have not had a fair hearing. The girls, themselves, have not identified individuals and it appears certain some of the group could not have been with the others. Yet eight are condemned to hang on July 10. In this country a number of persons are aroused at what they believe to be a chance a great injustice will be done. Protests are piling in on Scottsboro and Alabama. How the story may have been distorted by the time it reached far away Leipzig is not the question. At Scottsboro there is something which should be cleared up, and at once, [illegible] is too late and lest innocent men be hanged by mob excitement.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
CHRONICLE
JUN 20 1931

German Stones Fly at American Jury Verdict

RADICAL MOBS have broken the windows of the American consulates in Leipzig and Dresden because an Alabama jury has returned a death verdict on a number of negroes accused of assaulting two white girls on a train of box cars on which, all, the girls included, were traveling as tramps.

It is not at all clear that these negroes ought to be hung. There is doubt about the evidence and certainly the circumstances do not support such a penalty. But this European communist excitement about the case is truly remarkable.

German radicals are not stoning Soviet consulates in Leipzig or Dresden because Russians are being seized in Moscow and Leningrad on charges trifling in comparison and being executed without trial. The negroes at least had a trial, though it may have been unfair, and many Americans are moving strongly to save the men if they should be saved. The charge of injustice against the helpless plainly lies far more seriously against the Soviet than it does against American court institutions.

There are two explanations of this radical outburst. One is that the communists have long been working to persuade the American negro that they are his friends. The other is that lunacy inevitably shades the zealots in a "cause."

Birmingham, Ala. News
Saturday, June 13, 1931

Communists' Interest In Scottsboro Trials Shown Without Local Suppor

BY J. F. ROTHERMEL

Why have the Communists interested themselves in the cases of the nine negroes tried at Scottsboro on a charge of attacking two white women? This question follows the presentation of evidence in previous articles of this series about the case that the defense of the negroes at present rests mainly with the International Labor Defense, which is Communistic in sympathy if not in control.

Despite intimations in Communist papers, these nine negroes, it is safe to say, are not Communists. Workers they certainly are, as distinguished from capitalists, but hardly followers of the doctrines of Communism.

The writer questioned the negroes about the International Labor Defense and the Communistic party. None of them appeared to have any knowledge of the concepts of Communism, of Lenin, Trotzky or what kind of government was had in Russia. One of the group had heard of the I. L. D. His knowledge seemed limited to the fact that "they got a fellow out of trouble in Chattanooga once." He said he didn't know why they took a hand in the case.

Whatever doubt may be thrown upon the negroes' claims of ignorance regarding Communism, the claims still find support in several facts. Some of the defendants are, without much question, still in their early 'teens. It is hardly likely that they could have become at that age such ardent supporters of Communism as to warrant the party spending thousands of dollars purely in defense of a member. The high exter of illiteracy among the negroes an the fact that none, according to jailors and prison wardens, made any attempt to communicate with Communist representatives seems to remove all suspicion that the negroes themselves are active Communists.

Possible Reasons

Why then, have the Communists concerned themselves so much abou this case? There are two possible reasons: Either the negroes are victims of class war, sacrifices to the greed of the capitalists, as is charged, or else the trial is being used as a sort of red flag of ignorance and prejudice to rally adherents to the cause.

Critics of the trial in distant states for the most part apparently have overlooked the fact that Jackson is primarily an agricultural county. Of the total population of 36,881 (1930), 23,900 are classed as farm population. This is 64 per cent. There are only six incorporated cities or towns in the county. They are, with their 1930 population, Scottsboro, 2,304; Bridgeport, 2,124; Stevenson, 733; Paint Rock, 320; Hollywood, 274, and Woodville, 196.

Very little of the population of the county is industrial. Scottsboro has two hosiery mills and one mill for making rugs. The number of employes is about 350. There is also an ice plant and a saw and planing mill working several men each. All these industries are locally owned and capitalized.

Stevenson's industrial population is about 175, divided between a hosiery mill and lumber plants. Bridgeport has several small industries, two hosiery mills, a veneer company, a stove company and two saw and planing mills. The capacity employment is about 500. Another hosiery mill at Paint Rock employing 100 workers a shift completes the industrial setup of the county.

There are five banks in the county, with a surplus and capital of less than $1,000,000. A recent industrial survey by the Alabama Board of Industrial Development showed 171 firms in the three principal towns.

County Rural

There is, therefore, no large industrial population in Jackson County, nor is there any important "capitalist" class. The population is predominantly agricultural, with most of the county's business dependent upon the workers and products of the soil. The farm population, according to facts from the government Census Bureau, is above the average for the state in home ownership.

That such a population would deliberately and with malice frame up capital charges against nine negro workmen because they were enemies of the capitalist class strikes the average Jackson Countian as ridiculous were it not insulting.

Further doubt that "capitalists" are responsible for the "judicial lynching" of the negroes is seen in the personnel of the juries that indicted and tried the negroes. Of the 18 members of the Grand Jury and the 100 veniremen summoned for petit jury duty, 66 per cent are declared by Jackson County officials to have been active farmers. The majority of the rest are said to have been laborers (like the negroes), artisans, clerks and others of the employe class. Only four of the 118, it is said, were employers in any sense.

It appears likely, therefore, that Communist interest in the case has a deeper cause than defense of nine Communists or Communist sympathizers being sacrificed to the greed of capitalists in a class war. Is, then, the Scottsboro case being used as propaganda for the spread of Communism? And if so, is that propaganda being based on facts, or is falsehood being used to engender hatred and prejudice? Is it fair propaganda, or is it unfair propaganda? Are the Communists' appeal made to reason? Furthermore, wha of some of the charges made by persons not Communists but linked wit them in the defense of this case These questions will be approached in Sunday's article.

NEW YORK TELEGRAM

JUL 1 - 1931

DEATH APPEAL IN NEGRO CASES IS A LAW FEUD

Rival Camps of Lawyers Work to Same End but with Bitterness.

"COMMUNISM" RAISED

Inter-Racial Group Refuses to Co-operate with Labor Defense Order.

(Copyright, 1931, by United Press.)

ATLANTA, July 1.—Two rival groups of attorneys are perfecting appeals to the Alabama Supreme Court for eight Negroes sentenced to die July 10 for allegedly assaulting two white girls on a moving freight train near Huntsville, Ala. on March 25.

Refusal of the two groups to collaborate, the United Press learned today, is based on the belief of one group that the other has abortively injected into the case the element of "class struggle" in an effort to make it appear another "Sacco-Vanzetti" affair.

Believes in Courts.

Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of the Inter-Racial Commission, Atlanta, which has interested itself in the case in an effort to untangle the legal snarl, attacked the conditions under which the trial was conducted, denounced the alleged injection of "Communsim" into the case by the International Labor Defense, and said:—

"Personally I have great faith in the Alabama Supreme Court. Over and over again the higher courts of the South have demonstrated that they do not make racial discrimination in cases that come before them. A fact that unfortunately does not sometimes exist in the lower courts."

Troops at Trial.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which works with the Inter-Racial Commission, has approached Roderick Beddow, Birmingham criminal lawyer, to handle its side of the appeal. And the International Labor Defense has retained George Chamlee, Chattanooga attorney.

A Madison County circuit court jury at Scottsboro, Ala., convicted the Negroes April 6, on the testimony of the two girls, and of Orvil Gilley, a white boy.

At the trial, 10,000 persons flocked into Scottsboro and National Guardsmen were in command.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUN 29 1931

PROTEST AT EXECUTIONS.

Speakers Here Say Eight Negroes in Alabama Were "Railroaded."

Three thousand Negroes crowded yesterday afternoon into Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, at 129th Street and Seventh Avenue, to protest against the execution, scheduled for July 10, in Scottsboro, Ala., of eight Negroes, all minors, for attacks on two white girls.

The speakers were Walter White, secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People; William Pickens, field secretary of the association, and Bishop R. C. Lawson of the Pentecostal Church of Harlem, who presided.

White and Pickens, who went to Alabama to investigate, declared that the defendants, ranging in age from 14 to 20, were "railroaded." Only one attorney of six in the town of Scottsboro dared to accept the task of defending the youths, Pickens said, because Scottsboro, normally of 1,400 population, was thronged with a crowd of 10,000 during the trial.

The speakers depreciated the efforts of Communists in behalf of the condemned boys, saying they were harming the case more than helping it. Communists broke up a similar protest meeting recently in Chicago, Pickens said. Ten patrolmen were on duty at the church to prevent interference.

A woman who said she was Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of one of the condemned boys, addressed a meeting across the street in the Negro Elks' Auditorium and another in Lafayette Hall, 131st Street and Seventh Avenue. She charged that the boys had been "framed."

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

JUN 29 1931

Protest Negroes' Execution

2,500 at Harlem Session Hear Eight Were "Railroaded"

At a mass meeting yesterday in the Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, 129th Street and Seventh Avenue, sponsored by the Interdenominational Ministers' Conference of Greater New York and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 2,500 Negroes protested against the execution scheduled for July 10 in Scottsboro, Ala., of eight negroes, all minors, for attacks on two white girls, and pledged their financial support to the defense of the prisoners.

Bishop H. R. Lawson, of the Pentecostal Church of Harlem, presided and introduced the speakers, Walter White, secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Walter Pickens, field secretary of the organization, who were sent to Alabama to investigate the case.

The speakers both charged that the defendants were "railroaded" because of the fact that the town of Scottsboro, normally of 1,400 population, was thronged with 10,000 visitors during the trial.

The Ready Reds

Afro-American
5-9-31
Baltimore, Md.

When the Maryland legislature failed to make satisfactory progress in passing the jim crow repeal bill and the measure equalizing colored and white teachers' salaries, they found themselves one afternoon facing a delegation of colored and white radicals, who took possession of the state capitol building and stated their demands in vigorous language.

Colored and white cops in Harlem cracked heads of colored and white Communists who made a public demonstration and parade in protest against the proposed legal lynching of nine colored youths, eight condemned to die and one, fourteen years old, to a life term, for rape in Scotsboro, Alabama.

Boston Girls' High School annual dance at snobbishly exclusive Longwood Towers, excluded three colored members of the senior class with their escorts until "the reds" appeared (the League of Struggle for Negro Rights).

"Their signs bore such striking mottoes as: "Down with Jim Crow Towers," "Down with Race Discrimination," "No More Lynching in America."

Just ten "reds" made so much noise that the hotel management was "rebarrassed," and the colored members of the class were admitted "to avoid an unpleasant situation."

Reds as courageous as the Minute Men or the volunteer firemen seem everywhere ready for a demonstration against race prejudice, whether it be at hand or a thousand miles away. Nobody paid much attention to the abolitionists, the woman's suffragists or the temperance crowd at first, but we have the 13th, the 18th, and the 19th amendments to the U.S. Constitution now.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama.

3346

Patterson Jury Gives Verdict After 8 Hours' Deliberation; Norris Trial Is Being Rushed

State Sends First Boy To Face Trial to a Living Death

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 23.—An all-white jury today declared Haywood Patterson, first of the Scottsboro Boys to come up at this fourth trial, guilty. It sentenced him to 75 years in prison.

While preparations for the second Scottsboro trial were going forward, the first jury, the one which had heard the Haywood Patterson case made ready to announce its verdict.

The jury had been out for 8 hours and 31 minutes.

At 4:10 (5:10 Eastern Standard Time) while the court was in recess while defense counsel prepared some papers for the coming trial of Clarence Norris there was a knock on the door of the recorder's room, where the Patterson jury was confined. The jury had retired at 8:30 A. M. and had been closeted for 8 hours and 31 minutes.

The bailiff opened the door a crack and put in his head.

A voice said: "We're ready."

The bailiff skipped and said: "Hot dog!"

A patrolman came into court and spoke to Judge Callahan who conferred with counsel on both sides but did not end the recess.

The court room is filled with prospective jurors in the Norris case.

Patterson smiled, and continued to smile during the recess, while Clarence Norris remained serious and kept glaring toward the door through which the jury would come.

The court room hummed with conversation but little speculation on the verdict could be heard.

Norris lit a cigarette, and Patterson borrowed one from one of the State highway patrolmen, who have been acting as guards during the trial.

The jury came in at 4:30 (5:30 E. S. T.) led by John Burleson, and was shown into another jury room until defense and State should finish striking to select a jury for the Norris case.

A number of people, including four women apparently court attaches, stood at the back of the court room. This is the first time since the trial started that white women spectators have been in court since the trial started.

In the Jim-Crow section there have been a number of Negro women throughout the trial.

The jury in the Patterson case retired for the night at 9:25 last night, after hearing instructions from Judge W. W. Callahan for nearly two hours.

The Patterson case went to the jury without the medical testimony and the testimony relating to the defense development of that testimony, having been presented to it. Although Judge Callahan spent some time in his instructions on the bare medical testimony that traces of previous intercourse were found on examination of Victoria Price, he had ruled that defense evidence as to how these traces got there could not be presented. It had been on the basis of this evidence, and the more extended medical expert testimony permitted before Judge James A. Horton in the first Decatur trial, that Judge Horton based his reversal of a previous conviction against Patterson.

It seemed hours as the clerk called the names of the remaining 12 jurors, who are to try Clarence Norris, and they came forward one at a time and took their places in the box. The jurors are: I. Ralph Aldrich; James A. Hendricks; Stanley H. Moore; Nelson Morris; W. E. White; William E. Irwin; French R. Green; J. R. Sanders; Cooper Thomas; Samuel H. Thompson; Wise Tyler.

The Patterson jury filed in, the Norris jury filed out, and the verdict came.

At 4:45 striking of veniremen began. The State had 10 strikes and the defense 20. In the tense atmosphere of that court, with the jury in the defense witness room just behind where Patterson sat, striking went much faster than on Monday. Examination of jurors had gone on all day long. The State paused a minute or so over each strike, but the defense was ready, and called the numbers of the veniremen it challenged peremptorily, sharply.

The door of the State witness room was opened for a moment, and Victoria Price's voice, shouting something which those in the court room could not make out, floated out. A bailiff quickly closed the door.

Striking was ended at two minutes to five.

While the jury in the Haywood Patterson case was in another room in the courthouse, deliberating on its verdict, Judge W. W. Callahan this morning began the selection of a jury to try Clarence Norris.

The Patterson jury went out at 8:39 a.m.

Although there were said to be the names of twelve Negroes on the regular jury panel of thirty-five and the special panel of sixty-five called for this case, only seven appeared in court, and one of them George Eldredge, was immediately excused by the court as above the statutory age limit of sixty-five. A second, Berry Fogg, was excused for opposition to capital punishment. He is on the regular panel and had been excused in the Patterson trial for the same cause.

Clarence Norris sat behind defense counsel table with Haywood Patterson, who will apparently remain in the courtroom to avoid the necessity of sending to the jail for him when the jury in his case returns with its verdict.

Seek to Bar Negroes

"Have you ever contributed to the defense of these cases?" Melvin Hutson, Morgan County prosecutor, asked John Evans and Henry Madison, Negro veniremen.

Since it is probable that all Negro veniremen will be struck peremptorily as they were in the Patterson trial, the only explanation that could be given for asking this question was that the State wishes to get before the veniremen the idea that Negroes were financing the defense. Neither had ever contributed.

"Have you ever been approached on the case?" Hutson asked. Both answered no, and Hutson passed to another veireman.

"I couldn't understand half the questions that were asked here," Hutson said, referring to questions asked of prospective jurymen by Clarence L. Watts, defense attorney.

"I'm not going to pass on his ability to understand," was Judge Callahan's answer to a defense objection to the remark, while the courtroom laughed.

Defense Under Fire

In questioning some of the prospective jurors, Watts referred to statements made in Solicitor Hutson's inflammatory speech in summation in the Patterson case yesterday.

"Would an appeal by the solicitor in his argument to the jury that if a conviction were not obtained the men of Alabama would have nothing left to do but strap pistols around their middles to protect the womanhood of Alabama affect you in arriving at a verdict?" he asked.

Judge Callahan broke in to disallow the question as "purely speculative wild imagination." Hutson laughed quietly at his table. Watts excepted and Judge Callahan said, "That argument doesn't amount to anything." When Watts objected to the remark, however, he said he had been referring to colloquy between counsel. As Watts took an exception Callahan remarked ominously, "You have a right to except but I hope you won't abuse that right."

Callahan frequently cut off Watts in his questioning. Each time he did so a stir passed over the crowded court room with scattered laughs.

He questioned prospective jurors very closely about their newspaper reading, and made most specific reference to the "Decatur Daily," local paper which has used Associated Press dispatches exclusively on the case.

Once, when the state objected to a question put to a venireman by Watts, and Watts rose to speak, Callahan turned to him and shouted:

"Well, I'm going to rule in your favor now, are you still going to except?"

Watts challenged for cause a venireman who said he would "be inclined to take the word of a white woman who said she had been raped," and was over-ruled by Callahan.

Callahan also refused to permi challenge for cause of a venireman who said he had formed an opinion that the Scottsboro boys were guilty, at the time of the previous trials, but had no opinion now.

So far excuses for cause are:

Jurors in previous trials; four do not believe circumstantial evidence; one fixed opinion; five against capital punishment; ten white and two Negro prejudiced if defendant does not take stand; one over 65 years old; two Negroes.

Melvin Hutson, Morgan County solicitor, who made an inflammatory speech to the jury yesterday, demanding a verdict of guilty for Haywood Patterson "to protect the womanhood of Alabama," is teacher of an adult Sunday School class in Decatur.

This was revealed today when, under questioning by Mr. Watts, a prospective juryman admitted that he was in the class and volunteered that Hutson was a "mighty good teacher."

Hutson's predecessor in office, who made the summation to the jury in the previous Decatur trials of the Scottsboro case, was a preacher.

Albert Hinton, Negro reporter for the Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide, is in court today. He was not permitted, however, to sit at the table with the white press, nor were the white reporters consulted in the matter. A special table was set up for him on the far end of the court, in front of the small side section of the court reserved for Negro spectators.

An indication of the temper of defense counsel, which was caused by Callahan's charge to the jury in the Patterson case and his repeated rebuffs to the defense, was given in the putting of the following question to prospective jurors by Watts.

"Do you understand that the jury is the sole judge of the facts, and the judge, the judge of the law, and that the judge cannot decide the case for you?"

From the moment when the I. L. D. entered into the Scottsboro case and blocked the lynch verdicts against the eight of theboys, a relentless and brilliant legal battle was fought by the defense. The outstanding actions in the case from the beginning follow:

April 8, 1931.—I. L. D. enters the case and exposes the lynch frame-up.

April 18, 1931.—Gen. Geo. W Chamlee of Chattanooga, Southern white lawyer, engaged to represent the boys by a committee of lawyers from the I. L. D., Claude Patterson, Haywood's father, Mrs. Ads Wright and Mrs. Mamie Williams.

May 6, 1931.—I. L. D. halts execution verdicts, by filing amended motions for a new trial at Scottsboro together with many affidavits on the character of Victoria Price. Also obtains written order from Judge Hawkins, securing the permission for the parents to see the boys for the first time since their arrest. These actions saved the lives of the boys and began the long fight for their freedom.

June 22, 1931.—I. L. D. appeal with Alabama Supreme Court.

Jan. 21, 1932—I. L. D. attorneys argue appeal before the Alabama State Supreme Court in the presence of the largest crowd ever assembled there.

April 1, 1932—Walter H. Pollak outstanding Constitutional attorney of the I. L. D. defense, secured by I. L. D. to appeal case to United States Supreme Court.

April 19, 1932—I. L. D. secures stay of execution of boys from State Supreme Court until June 24.

June 19, 1932—Walter H. Pollak of the I. L. D. defense, secures writ of certiorari and order suspending death sentence from U. S. Supreme Court.

November 7, 1932—U. S. Supreme Court reverses decision of Scottsboro lynch court. Ground: Defendants did not have adequate counsel or defense. Orders new trial for boys.

March [illegible] 1932—I. L. D. wins change of venue of Scottsboro trial to Decatur (Morgan County), Alabama.

March 28, 1932—Trial opens in Decatur. I. L. D. challenges systematic exclusion of Negroes from jury.

March 29, 1932—I. L. D. attorneys call to witness stand Negro residents eligible for jury service but never called. Prepare to challenge entire Morgan County venire.

April 7, 1932—Ruby Bates, one of the two white girls allegedly attacked, appears in Court room from Birmingham, escorted by Mrs. May Jones, social worker. She declares her previous testimony a lie, and that it was forced from her by threats. Her testimony further exposes frame-up.

April 9, 1932—I. L. D. announces appeal to U. S. Supreme Court, when jury brings in verdict and second death sentence for Patterson.

June 23, 1932—I. L. D. wins new trial for Haywood Patterson on basis of Judge Horton's opinion, which stated that "evidence preponderates greatly in favor of the defendants."

November 11, 1933—I. L. D. makes public affidavits quoting more than 500 residents of Morgan County revealing preparations for the lynching of Scottsboro boys, witnesses and lawyers.

November 23, 1933—I. L. D. uncovers tampering with Jackson County jury rolls, in attempt of court officials to deny systematic exclusion of Negroes from jury service.

March 5, 1934—I. L. D. files appeal to Alabama Supreme Court in spite of Callahan's attempt to cripple defense by declaring his postponements illegal and leaving only 1 days to prepare and file appeal instead of 90 days after hearing o motions.

April 1, 1935—U. S. Supreme Court reverses Decatur death verdicts against Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson. Ground: Negroes systematically and illegally excluded from juries which indicted and tried boys.

SCOTTSBORO CASE GOES TO THE JURY

New, York, N.Y

New York Times

Asking Chair for Negro, Prosecutor Demands Protection for Alabama Women.

1-23-36

MISTRIAL PLEAS DENIED

Judge Threatens Leibowitz With Contempt for Alleged 'Insinuation.'

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 22.—Haywood Patterson's fourth trial for his life on a charge of rape ended today, as have all the other trials in the famous Scottsboro case, with an appeal to the passions of the jury.

Summing up for the prosecution, Melvin C. Hutson, the local solicitor, told the jurors that the womanhood of Alabama was looking to them for "protection." If Patterson were not made to pay with his life for a crime of which he swore today that he was innocent, Mr. Hutson said, the women of the State would "have to go around with six-shooters buckled around their middle to protect the sacred parts of their bodies."

"Don't go out and quibble over the evidence," roared the young successor to Wade Wright, who, in an earlier trial, exhorted the jurors "to show them that Jew money from New York cain't buy Alabama justice." And Mr. Hutson added:

"Say to yourselves 'we're tired of this job and put it behind you. Get it done quick and protect the fair womanhood of this great State.'"

It was nearly 5:30 P. M. when the closing arguments by Mr. Hutson, Thomas E. Knight Jr., Lieutenant Governor and special prosecutor, and of Clarence L. Watts, a defense attorney, were completed. Judge W. W. Callahan, whom the defense had charged with bias and prejudical conduct repeatedly throughout the trial, left it to the jury to decide whether to return after dinner to hear his charge or wait until tomorrow morning.

"Let's come back tonight and get it over with," one of the farmers on the jury shouted and his fellows murmured their approval. Judge Callahan then declared a recess until 7:30 P. M.

Defense Objections Overruled.

A panel of 100 talesmen has been drawn for the Norris trial and Judge Callahan yesterday interrupted Patterson's trial to draw veniremen to sit in judgment of Charlie Williams and Andy Wright next week. He did this in full view of the jury trying Patterson's case and this morning Mr. Watts asked Judge Callahan to declare a mistrial on the ground that bringing the manacled Negroes into court was prejudicial.

Angrily denying the motion, Judge Callahan pointed out that the defense had registered no objection when he announced what he was going to do. Mr. Watts quickly renewed his motion on the ground that the mere announcement was sufficient basis for a mistrial and Judge Callahan, with rising choler denied the motion.

"I now move," began Mr. Watts, but Judge Callahan cut him short, declaring that he "did not want to hear any further argument" and that the court would "not be tampered with." Twice later in the day the defense moved unsuccessfully for a mistrial because of comments by Mr. Hutson on the testimony of the Negro defendants.

Before the closing arguments began, the defense succeeded in reading into the record the testimony of Dr. R. R. Bridges, a physician who examined Victoria Price, the complaining witness, within an hour after she was taken from the freight train on which she says she was assaulted by a dozen Negroes.

Physician Contradicts Woman.

Dr. Bridges, a Scottsboro physician, was too ill to come to court, but he testified before Judge James E. Horton at one of Patterson's earlier trials that the woman's pulse and breathing were normal and that her body showed no sign of cuts and bruises with which she testified at this trial that she was covered.

The doctor had testified also that he found sexual indications which Judge Callahan refused to permit the defense to prove might have been accounted for by events which happened in a hobo jungle in Chattanooga the night before Ruby Bates and Mrs. Price hoboed their way home to Huntsville with their escorts.

One of these, Lester Carter, testified today that he was with the girls aboard the freight train when a fight broke out between colored and white vagrants who were also on the train. It was immaterial, Judge Callahan ruled, whether he and Orville Gilley had spent the night with Ruby and Mrs. Price.

Later when Mr. Knight was extracting in detail from Carter the various stages of his wanderings from coast to coast, Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief defense counsel, protested. Judge Callahan held that the evidence was admissible. Mr. Leibowitz inquired why he had not been permitted to trace the movements of Victoria Price prior to the alleged attack and Judge Callahan threatened to cite him for contempt.

"I won't have insinuations that you were denied something that somebody else got," he shouted.

Carter was permitted to testify however, that he overheard Mrs Price urge one of the white hoboes while she was in jail at Scottsboro to pretend that he was her brother.

Carter said he had given up hobo life and was now a laborer for the Board of Education in New York.

Patterson on the Stand.

Patterson next took the stand. Over and over he denied that he had touched Mrs. Price or Ruby Bates, or that he had even seen any woman on the train. The white hoboes had been throwing stones at him and the "other colored," he explained, and he had fought with them "to make them stop bothering us."

Mr. Hutson, cross-examining the defendant, blustered and stormed about the court room, repeating the Negro's answers to his questions with obvious scorn and disbelief in his voice and manner. Sometimes he didn't wait for Patterson to answer one question before he asked another, and he frequently attributed words to the witness that the Negro had not uttered.

At last the local prosecutor fell back upon the record of the original trials at Scottsboro, although Mr. Leibowitz protested that the record was inadmissible on the ground that the Supreme Court of the United States had declared the whole proceeding illegal because the defendants were not adequately represented there by counsel.

Patterson said he did not remember testifying as the record indicated he had done when he was asked what he saw aboard the freight train on March 25, 1931. According to the transcript from which Mr. Hutson read, the Negro had testified that he saw all but three of the nine Negroes in custory attack the white girls. Later, reading from another part of the same record, Mr. Leibowitz showed that Patterson had testified just as he had today.

Four of Patterson's co-defendants followed him on the witness stand. They were Olin Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Ozie Powell and Andy Wright, Negro boys who have grown to manhood in jail. All denied participating in any attack on the white women.

Hutson Addresses Jury.

The State offered no rebuttal and after a short recess, during which he prepared himself by brushing his wavy brown hair, putting on a waistcoat and straightening his small blue bow tie, Mr. Hutson began.

He got quickly to his point. This was a simple case of rape, he said. Since the complainant was white, the issue narrowed down to one question:

"Did he do it?"

The Morgan County solicitor then described in various figures of speech the loathsome nature of the crime charged to Patterson. The lawmakers of Alabama, representing "the wisdom of the ages," had decreed that this crime should be punished by death. The law held a woman's body inviolate until she surrendered herself voluntarily, and whatever else Victoria Price might be, she was "a human being of the female species."

It was then that he hade his appeal for the protection of womanhood, and he warned the jurors that when they had rendered their verdict and gone home they would have to face their neighbors. His voice rose to a crescendo as he choked back a sob evoked by his own eloquence in lauding the martyrdom of Victoria Price.

He had no sympathy to waste upon the defendants because they had been kept in prison five years. What of Mrs. Price—this woman, little more than a girl, who for four years has stood up under repeated attacks of the defense while she sought vindication of herself, punishment of the guilty Negroes and protection for her sisters in the State?"

"She fights for the rights of the womanhood of Alabama," he shouted.

Watts Sticks to Evidence.

Mr. Watts, a prominent attorney in the home town of Mrs. Price, made a calm and detailed analysis of the evidence submitted, asserting that the story told by Mrs. Price had been refuted by the State's own witnesses "and contradicted by the physical facts in the case." Rape was a crime of secrecy, not one committed in broad daylight in full view of the public highway by a dozen men strangers to each other.

Introducing himself as a "friend and neighbor" from Madison County, Mr. Watts criticize the State for not placing Orville Gilley, an eyewitness of the alleged crime, on the witness stand, and remarked that he could not refrain from wondering why the State had left it for the defense to present medical testimony which was in the State's possession.

He too urged jurors to weigh the evidence with common sense, and in answer to Mr. Hutson's plea for the protection of womanhood appealed for "protection of the innocent."

"It takes courage to do the right thing in the face of public clamor for the wrong thing, but when justice is not administered fairly, governments disintegrate and there is no protection for any one, man or woman, black or white."

Mr. Knight, who had the last word for the prosecution, summed up briefly and with restraint, confining himself to the evidence and arguing that all the testimony submitted, save that of Patterson himself, tended to bear out the complainant's story.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

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NEW YORK
GRAPHIC

JUL 1 - 1931

Reds Stone U. S. Consulate In Berlin as Protest Over Executions Slated Here

Berlin, July 1 (UP).—A band of rowdies stoned the United States Consulate at midnight last night, smashing a glass door and one window.

Four out o fthe gang of twenty were arrested. They denied they had participated in the attack. The others fled.

The police said they thought the demonstration was staged by Communists in protest against the impending execution of eight Negroes in Alabama for an attack on two white girls.

The consulate asked additional police protection.

Appeal For Negroes

© 1931, United Press

Atlanta, July 1.—Two rival groups of attorneys, working without collaboration, are perfecting appeals to the Alabama Supreme Court for eight Negroes sentenced to die July 10 for allegedly assaulting two white girls on a moving freight train near Huntsville, Ala., on March 25.

Refusal of the two groups to collaborate, the United Press learned today, is based on the belief of one group that the other has abortively injected into the case the element of "class struggle" in an effort to make it appear another "Sacco-Vanzetti" affair.

Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of the Interracial Commission, Atlanta, which has interested itself in the case in an effort to untangle the legal snarl, told the United Press in an interview, "The case is complicated by outside agencies interested in class propaganda."

Refuse to Co-operate

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which works in harmony with the Interracial Commission, has approached Roderick Beddow, Birmingham criminal lawyer, to handle the forthcoming appeal. The International Labor Defense, described by the Inter-racial Commission as "Communistic," has retained George Chamlee, Chattanooga attorney, to make the appeal.

"Under no circumstances will I co-operate with Chamlee," Reddow told the United Press by telephone from his home at Birmingham.

Yet both are working toward the same end, in the belief that injustice was done April 6 when a Madi-son county circuit court jury at Scottsboro, Ala., convicted the Negroes on the testimony only of the two girls and of Orvil Gilley, a white boy.

Gilley, according to the testimony, was one of seven white boys who were riding in the open freight car with the two white girls when a gang of twelve Negroes came piling down from an adjoining box car roof and engaged in a free-for-all fight. He was knocked out, he said, and was the only white boy not thrown off the train.

Those who were pitched off ran to a telegraph station and flashed word ahead of what was transpiring. A farmer who testified he saw the train pass said he was on a nearby hay loft and "saw plenty." Nine Negroes, the two girls and Gilley were taken off the train by an armed posse some thirty miles from the point where the white boys were routed.

10,000 at Trial

At the trial, 10,000 persons flocked into Scottsboro. National Guardsmen were in command. Judge A. E. Hawkins of the Ninth Alabama Circuit presided. Solicitor H. G. Bailey prosecuted; Steven Roddy of Chattanooga appeared for the defense but turned over the actual conduct of the case to Milo Moody, Scottsboro attorney appointed by the court.

Eight Scottsboro Negroes Appeal

Advertiser

Execution Is Automatically Suspended By Plea To Await Action Of Court

6-30-31

Montgomery, Ala.

Certificates of appeal of the eight negroes, convicted at Scottsboro of criminally assaulting two young white women and sentenced to electrocution, were received yesterday at the office of the clerk of the Alabama Supreme Court.

This action automatically suspends execution of the death penalty in each case, originally set for July 10, until the high court renders its decision. Names of the eight negroes filing certificates of appeal are Haywood Patterson, Eugene Williams, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson, Andy Wright, Olen Montgomery, Charlie Weems and Clarence Norris.

A ninth defendant whose case resulted in a mistrial and who is to be tried again, is confined in the Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham. The eight condemned are at Kilby. Their applications for new trials to the Jackson Circuit Court were recently denied.

Tonight at midnight the Supreme Court will recess until the first Monday in October. Reconvening then the high court will begin the call of divisions on the last Monday in October. Jackson County appealed cases are grouped in the Eighth Division, the docket for which will not be called until January. It seems probable, therefore, that no decision will be announced in the Scottsboro cases until January or February, unless the Attorney General should move to have them advanced on the docket after the court reconvenes in October.

THE INTEREST OF RADICALS IN THE ALABAMA CASE

Advertiser

The Academy of Science of Leningrad protests the conviction and the death sentence imposed upon the eight Alabama Negroes, under sentence to die in Alabama for assault in Jackson county.

The Leningrad savants, and propagandists, say that "this act cannot be understood by men of normal psychology, but anything can be expected from America where such legal actions as those against the followers of Darwin took place." This latter reference, presumably, is to the Dayton trial of John Thomas Scopes.

One of the members of the Academy says that the execution "by American imperialists of their unfortunate prey from the exploited class must create a strong protest all over the world." 7-4-31

Political agitators in this country, in Germany, and now in Russia, have sought to make a world scandal of the Scottsboro case. The revolting thing about it is the insincerity of the agitators and the reckless use they make of misinformation. As we have before remarked, these agitators are not moved by humaneness, nor by a love of justice which they believe to have been mocked in Alabama. They care no more for these eight doomed men than they care for eight stones by the side of an abandoned road. In fact, they are delighted at the conviction—it is good fuel, of a sort, for the flames which they wish to light. They are seeking converts to communism and hope to do it by convincing the poor and the ignorant that these men are to die only because they are lowly and friendless, and only because the American system of government is vicious.

Montgomery Ala.

Collinsville, Ala., New Era
Thursday, July 2, 1931

~~Executions Opposed~~

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Russians Appeal In Behalf Of Alabama Negroes

MOSCOW—A committee headed by Maxim Gorky, novelist, appealed to the World's Workers to prevent the executions o eight negroes sentenced to death in Alabama for an attack on two white girls.

The appeal characterized the sentences as an instance of "capitalistic white terror," and referred to it as "another Sacco-Vanzetti case".

The Scottsboro Case

To the Editor of The Nation: Nation

Sir: Because I have been so busy working on the Scottsboro case, the article on that case published in your issue of June 3 has just come to my attention. With a good deal that was said I agree, but the effort to whitewash the attorney Stephen Roddy, whether that was conscious or unconscious, seems to me most unfortunate for the cause of the boys themselves, in which, as you rightly say, all of us are primarily interested. Vol. 133, No. 3443.

In order to put plainly and without prejudice Mr. Roddy's connection with these cases I quote his own words:

7-1-31 New York N.Y.

> If I was paid down here and employed it would be a different thing, but I have not prepared this case for trial and have only been called into it by people who are interested in these boys from Chattanooga. Now, they have not given me an opportunity to prepare the case and I am not familiar with the procedure in Alabama, but I merely came down here as a friend of people who are interested and not as paid counsel. . . . I am merely here at the solicitation of people who have become interested in this case, without any payment of fee and without any preparation for trial, and I think the boys would be better off if I step entirely out of the case according to my way of looking at it and according to my lack of preparation of it and not being familiar with the procedure in Alabama. [Weems-Norris record, pp. 4-5.]

Mr. Roddy did not interview any of the nine defendants before their arraignment. The only time that he talked to them at all was in the courtroom, just before they were tried. At not one of the four trials at Scottsboro did Stephen Roddy, who according to his own account was entirely unprepared, ask for an adjournment in order that he might prepare. At not one of these trials did he even sum up for his clients (*cf.* Patterson record, p. 96). At not one of these trials did he make a single objection to the charge given by the judge, and it is to be remembered that these nine Negroes were being tried for an offense the punishment of which was death.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has the four records of these trials. What does that organization think of Mr. Roddy? If *The Nation* obtained its information from the association, it is extraordinary that the article published mentioned Mr. Roddy only to praise him. Incidentally, Mr. Roddy at no time suggested that he was retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and said distinctly upon the motion for a new trial on June 5 that he "was glad that he did not represent any New York organization."

I have written this not because I am assisting the International Labor Defense in connection with this case, but because I honestly believe that the difficulties in which the nine Negroes involved in the Scottsboro cases find themselves are due to the fact that at their trials—the only time when their defense could be put in in its entirety and with its full weight—no one attempted to put in that defense. This I believe has seriously prejudiced their case.

New York, June 8 CAROL WEISS KING

NEW YORK TELEGRAM
JUN 25 1931

A Piece of Her Mind

By Elsie McCormick

ONE of the interesting things brought to light through the Scottsboro case is the growing radical attitude of the Negroes of America. The other day I looked through a heap of Negro newspapers. All were conservative family journals, full of church and lodge news, and in no way aligned with any radical or political group.

Yet in one paper after another I found editorials considering what Communism offers and comparing it to their chances under the present social and political system.

These articles obviously were not written by persons schooled in the language of Lenin. The ideology in many cases would have caused a Moscow Communist to tear his bushy locks, but beneath the naive words was a serious interest in the Marxist idea.

* * *

FOR instance, the following editorial appeared in the Baltimore Afro-American, one of the largest Negro newspapers in the country, and one that has long been noted for its respectability and conservative standing:—

"The National Security League, headed by white United States Army officers who are dedicated to the proposition that Negroes shall not get army commissions, had an address broadcast May 26 on the subject of the 'Menace of Communism.'

"But Communism is no menace to Negroes. Fact is, we prefer the Communists to the National Security League.

"The Reds are going our way. . . . There is more real Christianity among white Communists than in the white Y. M. C. A., the white Christian Endeavor societies or the white so-called Christian churches.

"If the Communists ran Baltimore, for example, Negroes could get jobs on the police force or drive city garbage carts, at least. Shields Alley would be paved.

"Also, Negroes could get a bed in Johns Hopkins Hospital or attend the Maryland University Law School, which they are taxed to support. They could even attend the nearest church, whether it happened to be predominantly black or white.

"The Reds are no menace to Negroes. In fact, it is very comforting to find groups of such people as Communists in this color-mad Western world."

* * *

ANOTHER paper, the Florida Sentinel, sets amid its church and society notes another disquieting statement. "The frequent appeals of the Communists to American Negroes are causing the black man to think more seriously of his new-found friends," it remarks.

"While we do not approve of the Communist type of demonstrations, there is something about the fundamental appeal of the organization which is becoming very attractive to Negro ears.

"The Negro wants a fairer and more equal opportunity to earn a living, a chance to demonstrate his political fitness at the polls, a right to self-determination, better streets and more sanitary conditions.

"Time will tell whether he will continue to listen to the stern words of the masters who command and demand, or turn to the men who commune with him on equal planes and stand with him in his march to the upward avenues of life."

And so it goes in one newspaper after another, all journals that represent not a lunatic fringe but the most solid and respectable elements in Negro life.

White citizens who look upon the colored man as an unthinking menial or as our official jester seem sublimely ignorant of this nationwide swing to the left. Some day they may be as surprised as the upper class Chinese were by the sudden change in the humble coolies.

Of course, blame will be laid primarily on the far-reaching arm of Moscow. Yet it seems to me that those most responsible for this growing radicalization are the gentle framers of Jim Crow laws, the labor unions that are too good to recognize Negro grievances, and the gentlemen of flame and fagot who ride over the Southern landscape.

Anyway, a strange new ferment is brewing in the Negro world, and it is time that complaisant white folks began to realize it.

Andalusia, Ala., Star
Friday, June 26, 1931

Judge Hawkins Denies 8 Condemned Negroes' Motion for New Trial

Attorneys Immediately File Appeal Which Automatically Stays Execution

SCOTTSBORO, ALA.—Judge A. E Hawkins late Tuesday denied a motion for a new trial for the eight negroes now in Kilby prison at Montgomery awaiting execution of death sentences imposed for attacking two young girls who were "hoboing their way home" on a freight train.

Attorneys for the negroes immediately filed notice of an appeal to the Alabama supreme court which automatically stays the execution of sentence on July 10.

The negroes were convicted by juries in trial here early in April. A mistrial was declared for the ninth negro, a boy 14, after a jury was unable to agree on a sentence.

The court had instructed the jury to return a life sentence for the boy, but a majority of the jury is said to have held out for the death penalty.

The alleged attacks occurred on a freight train between Stevenson and Point Rock, Ala., where the negroes were arrested by a posse when the train halted.

Few persons were in the court room during the arguments for new trials, contrasting with the crowds that gathered here for the first day of the trials in April.

Author Analyzes Mob Mentality

Negro World

Dos Passos Says Lynching A Carnival to Undernourished Whites

7-4-31

By JOHN DOS PASSOS

Author of "Three Soldiers," "Manhattan Transfer," "42nd Parallel."

New York N.Y.

Our legal procedure is a kind of map of our ruling class mind. In the South, in a case where Negroes are involved, every white man is given the luxury of being part of the ruling class. You have to realize how physically and emotionally undernourished and starved the small tenant farmers, the small storekeepers, the jellybeans and drugstore loafers who make up the lynching mobs are, to understand the orgy of righteousness and of unconscious sex and cruelty impulses, that a lynching lets loose. The feeling of superiority to the Negro is the only thing the poor whites of the South have. A lynching is a kind of carnival to them.

Reading the testimony in the Scottsboro case, you feel all that—the band outside the courthouse, the mob starved for joy and sex and power hanging around, passing from mouth to mouth all the juicy details of a raping. You feel that filthy prurient joy in the courtroom, the stench of it is in the badly typewritten transcript of the court procedure, in the senseless ritual, the half illiterate, poorly phrased speeches of the judge and the solicitor, the scared answers of the two tough girls, evidently schooled for days in their story, sometimes seeming to enjoy the exhibitionism of it. **Evidently the court stenographer didn't take the trouble to put down what the boys said in their own words; what they said didn't matter, they were going to burn away.**

From the testimony you can't make out what actually did happen on that train-full of white and colored boys between Chattanooga and Paint Rock. But you do reach the certainty that it couldn't have happened as told in court and that, even granting that the two girls were forced by some whites or Negroes on the train, there's no particular reason why it should have been the boys who are now held in jail, to give the righteous churchgoers of Jackson County, Ala., the pleasure of a lynching. Whatever happened, however it turns [illegible] at a pretty picture the Scotts- [illegible] offers (a man has to have [illegible]ong stomach anyway to read legal testimony without gagging) of a little corner of civilization in Mr. Hoover's greatest nation on earth. What a story of miserable starved lives, prostitution, rape and sickness comes out between the lines of the courtroom testimony. **Lynching and race hatred, like pellagra, are diseases of poverty and ignorance.**

As far as I can see, since the days of the old Abolitionists, no one has had the **courage to publicly face the problem until the International Labor Defense and the Community party** came along with their slogans of equality and cooperation between white and Negro workers. For that reason alone, I think those organizations deserve support, even by outsiders who do not subscribe to their entire creed.

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Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

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NEW YORK TELEGRAM

JUN 1 8 1931

"Justice" as Applied in the Scottsboro Case

By H. Kappelman.

THE pending disposition of the youths in Scottsboro, Ala., who were charged with a heinous crime and convicted by mob-sought justice, presents a serious case in the annals of Southern jurisprudence.

We have accustomed ourselves to lynch law justice, but as yet we have heard little of mob-surrounding convictions. And now, when a member of the Bar from New York comes to the aid of the victims to assure them of their constitutional privilege and the right of counsel, we hear of some unknown citizens seeking his leaving the State.

It is saddening to find that a lawyer has to cross State lines to assist these colored boys. Has the Bar of Alabama forgotten its duty to those who are entitled to the safeguards of the Constitution?

We thought the new South had acquired a better understanding of modern times and that it had left behind its archaic form of justice, but it seems that in juridical philosophy it still clings to the old order.

We New Yorkers owe no apology to any State forgetting its obligation to its denizens. We live in an enlightened State. All the Union is guided by the same constitutional bible.

144 Rivington St.

By W. E. Hawkins.

In your issue of June 12 two of your readers, Messrs. Allen Glasser and Herbert Berry, object because the editor and other groups in New York are protesting against the legal lynching of those Negro boys in Alabama. ~~Mr. Glasser compares~~ the case with Francis Crowley. There is no parallel. If Francis Crowley had been railroaded to jail and thence to the chair merely because of the color of his skin, then the citizens of Alabama would have a moral right to protest.

I do not deny these gentlemen the right to sympathize with lynchers or to join a mob if they think that the manly and civilized thing to do, but when Mr. Berry advises to "teach the Negroes to leave white women alone" I fear he assumes an authority which the white women have not delegated to him or anybody.

Have any groups of white women found it necessary to appeal to Mr Berry to protect them from attacks of Negroes? Does Mr. Berry know of any white women who have been attacked by Negroes, and did they fail to report it? If so, then Mr. Berry has no complaint. I suppose the white women of America are sufficiently moral and intelligent to speak out if they have been subject to attack.

Mr. Berry objects to white women associating with Negroes. Aren't white women sufficiently intelligent and civilized to choose their own company? Have they asked Mr. Berry to choose for them?

Happily, there are thousands of white people too big and fine to be dragged into the mire of blind race hate.

1,303 St. John's Pl., Brooklyn.

By Eugene Gordon.

In Friday's (June 12) letter forum Herbert Berry said, referring to Theodore Dreiser's speech of protest against railroading eight Negro boys to death in Alabama:—

"Let Mr. Dreiser devote his time if it hadn't outgrown the righteous to teaching Negroes to let white women alone and he will do a great deal more good. Whenever a Negro is found associating with a white woman he is indirectly, if not directly, responsible for lynchings."

Here is a perfect example of a warped and shrivelled view.

But Berry proves the case against himself—proves that it is not for rape that certain white men would kill Negroes—when he adds that:—

"Whenever a Negro is found associating with a white woman he is indirectly, if not directly, responsible for lynchings."

In other words, it is not because Negroes are supposed to attack these women that they are lynched; it is even that they are "found associating" with them.

Here we have the truth of the Scottsboro case. The Negroes were sentenced to die not because they attacked the women but because they chanced to be "associating" with them.

198 Chambers St., Boston.

The letter forum is for an exchange of opinion among World-Telegram readers. You are invited to write on any subject of current interest. Brief letters are best. Try to keep within 300 words. No letter of controversial nature will be published unless a bona fide name and address is given. Your name will be withheld if you so request.

By H. Marshall Fredericks.

The "Case of Eight Negro Youths Facing Death" in the June 12 issue of The World-Telegram has disturbed my German-American concept of justice. The Southern white man's hobby of hiding behind the skirts of his women to justify his thirst for killing black men, both in and out of the courts of justice, has been of such long practice that it is arousing the concern of the intelligent element of all groups. The only people who are free in the South are the Southern white man and the Negro woman.

To "teach Negroes to let white women alone" is ridiculous in view of the fact that the white man throughout history has hyphenated all groups of humanity regardless of color, protecting his conduct through the application of the principle "Might is right."

It is regrettable that the race prejudices of so many people act as a barrier to their being better informed.

Until we are mentally free, we are still slaves.

1,035 Fifth Ave.

By C. Harrison.

There should be no long distance controversy about Alabama justice. Bear in mind there never was a Negro convicted of rape who wasn't a victim of "lynching" or "legal lynching."

It is too bad that papers cannot bring the whole narrative of the injury and humility and disgrace suffered by girls in these cases to the public.

I know of some deplorable instances, victims of 6, 8 and 10 years of age.

It isn't too much to believe that New York City would be shorn of some of its graft and corruption wrath of the mob. Think it over! New York tells Alabama to clean up—ho! ho!

323 W. 80th St.

By S. L.

I should like to thank J. Goldberg, Frank McKee and P. S. for their letters about the eight Negroes that have been condemned to the legal murder of Alabama's court of "justice." It is just ice—it is cruelly cold.

The goddess of justice is blindfolded. 'Tis well, for if she could see what is done sometimes in her name she would die of shame.

New York.

By Stanley Dias.

Mr. Herbert Berry knows as well as I that the original Negro was black. He also knows the white man caused him to be all shades. Then why does he say Mr. Dreiser should teach Negroes to leave white women alone? I think Mr. Dreiser should teach white men to leave colored women alone.

239 E. 101st St.

Would Have Police Guards at Hospitals.

By Benjamin B. Kasloff.

Lately the newspapers carried news items regarding a gangster being taken to a public hospital for treatment. These items stated that the persons who brought this man to the hospital left immediately after doing so, and their identity and whereabouts are unknown.

Similar instances are very numerous of persons upon whom crimes have been committed being brought to a hospital by the perpetrators who immediately thereafter leave and are never found by the police.

Such practices could not occur if the leading hospitals of the city of New York were furnished with detectives from the Police Department during the entire period of twenty-four hours of the day, to apprehend and arrest persons who appear at the hospital for treatment and seemingly are involved in a crime. The present staff of doctors and nurses are in no position to cope with the criminal elements.

New York.

Sees "Noise" as One of New York's Chronic Ills.

By M. D. G.

Thanks for your editorial on noise complaints, but the system of the Noise Abatement Commission has no practical value when several radios in the same house or in different houses turn a dwelling place into Coney Island.

It is easy to take our next door neighbor to court, but it is hardly possible to drag all the others there. Even if we did this for each one silenced a new crop would sprout, because there is no law or regulation concerning the subject.

At that rate we could spend half of our existence in court—that is, if a blackjack or one of its relatives did not bring the "noble experiment" (not to mention the experimenter) to an untimely end.

Noise is a chronic ill of New York which cannot be remedied by the individual.

New York.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
Tuesday, June 23, 1931

Gov. Miller Files Another Telegram

A telegram urging that he use the power of his office to save Alabama from the "disgrace of murdering eight young negroes for crime they certainly did not commit," was received by Gov. Miller yesterday from E. Haldeman-Julius, publisher, of Girard, Kan.

Text of the message, which obviously refers to the negroes convicted at Scottsboro of criminally attacking two young white girls, and who are now under sentence of death, follows:

"I appeal to you to use the great powers of your office to save your State from disgrace of murdering eight young negroes for crime they certainly did not commit. Study of the facts convinces me that the cause against these poor victims of prejudice and tyranny could not be held together were it not for the atmosphere of hatred and violence maintained by the courts, the officers of the law and soldiers. I have made a careful study of the facts and am convinced these young negroes are innocent. They should be turned loose. To execute them is to outrage the entire civilized world and brand Alabama as breeding place of the cruelties of the Dark Ages."

Gov. Miller has had the telegram filed with other communications concerning the Scottsboro cases.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
STAR
JUN 1 5 1931

MATERIALS NEARER HOME

Some weeks ago, eight negroes were convicted in Alabama for offenses against two young white women. Since that time the voice of so-called liberals in the north have been raised against what they please to call the ruthlessness of racial relations in the south. Refreshing it is to read in the New York *World-Telegram* a letter by ALLEN GLASSER, of the Bronx, who calls these critics to task in the following language:

NEW YORK SUN

JUL 1 - 1931

DRAFT APPEALS FOR 8 NEGROES

Rival Groups of Attorneys at Work in Atlanta.

THEY REFUSE TO COOPERATE

Accused Prisoners Are Sentenced to Die on July 10.

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ATLANTA, July 1 (U. P.).—Two rival groups of attorneys, working without collaboration, are perfecting appeals to the Alabama Supreme Court for eight Negroes sentenced to die on July 10 for allegedly attacking two white girls on a moving freight train near Huntsville, Ala., on March 25.

The refusal of the two groups to collaborate, the United Press learned today, is based on the belief of one group that the other has abortively injected into the case the element of "class struggle" in an effort to make it appear another "Sacco-Vanzetti" affair.

Dr. Will W. Alexander, executive director of the Interracial Commission of Atlanta, which has interested itself in the case in an effort to untangle the legal snarl, told the United Press in an interview "the case is complicated by outside agencies interested in class propaganda."

Reds Taking a Hand.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which works in harmony with the Interracial Commission, has approached Roderick Beddow, Birmingham criminal lawyer, to handle the forthcoming appeal. The international labor defense, described by the Interracial commission as "Communistic," has retained George Chamlee, Chattanooga attorney, to make the appeal.

"Under no circumstances will I cooperate with Chamlee," Beddow told the United Press by telephone from his home at Birmingham.

Yet both are working toward the same end, in the belief that injustice was done on April 6, when a Madison County Circuit Court jury at Scottsboro, Ala., convicted the Negroes on the testimony of the two girls and of Orvil Gilley, a white boy.

Gilley, according to the testimony, was one of seven white boys who were riding in the open freight car with the two white girls when a gang of twelve Negroes came piling down from an adjoining box car room and engaged in a free-for-all fight. He was knocked out, he said, and was the only white boy not thrown off the train.

Nine Taken Off Train.

Those who were pitched off ran to a telegraph station and flashed word ahead of what was occurring. A farmer who testified he saw the train pass said he was on a nearby hay loft and "saw plenty."

Nine Negroes, the two girls and Gilley were taken off the train by an armed posse some thirty miles from the point where the white boys were routed.

At the trial 10,000 persons flocked into Scottsboro. National Guardsmen were in command. Judge A. E. Hawkins of the Ninth Alabama circuit presided. Solicitor H. G .Bailey prosecuted. Steven Roddy of Chattanooga appeared for the defense but turned over the actual conduct of the case to Milo Moody, Scottsboro attorney, appointed by the court.

Solicitor Bailey told the United Press he believed the case was conducted in "absolute fairness and that, under the Alabama law, the eight Negroes were convicted in all justice. One of the Negroes was tried separately, but the jury disagreed.

Dr. Alexander, however, attacked the conditions under which the trial was conducted, denounced the alleged injection of "communism" into the case by the international labor defense, and said:

"Personally, I have great faith in the Alabama Supreme Court. Over and over again the higher courts of the South have demonstrated that they do not make racial discrimination in cases that come before them, a fact that unfortunately does not sometimes exist in the lower courts."

Harlem Mass Meeting Advocates Release Of Eight Doomed Negroes

Advertiser

6-29-31

NEW YORK, June 28.—(AP)—A mass meeting in Harlem yesterday at which speakers advocated the release of eight negroes facing execution in Montgomery, Ala., for an attack on two white girls, decried Premier Mussolini's policies in Italy, and praised the soviet five-year plan.

The meeting followed a parade of about 5,000 persons.

The marchers carried placards reading: "death to lynchers," "smash the color line," "equality to all," and "smash the boss terror," as well as caricatures of Judge Hawkins, who refused a new trial to the negroes under sentence of death.

In the procession were 300 young pioneers, a communist organization, and several hundred opponents of fascism who shouted, "down with Mussolini!" between selections by the band.

The demonstration was policed by 120 policemen who had been instructed not to molest the demonstrators unless there was disorder.

German Lawyer Forms Scottsboro Committee

Advertiser

7-5-31

BERLIN, July 4.—(AP)—Supporting Theodore Dreiser's committee, formed to save eight negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., from the electric chair, a German committee has been formed by Prof. Alfonse Goldschmidt, traveler and noted lawyer.

It was announced that he had obtained the adhesion of Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, Leon Feuchiwanger, George Ledebour and other prominent scientists, authors and public men.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
TRIBUNE

JUN 26 1931

The Protesting Communists.

The sudden flaring up of Communist protests in Russia, Germany and elsewhere over the scheduled execution of eight Alabama Negroes for rape would probably occasion more serious attention if such protests had not been so consistently based, in the past, on the most practical and partisan of motives. The business of deploring this country's capitalistic outrages has now become so standardized that one could almost have anticipated the smashing of windows in the American consulate at Dresden, or the strangely familiar references to "American murder and imperialism" which accompanied the bottle throwing.

Unfortunately for these chronic clamorers in a cause, the notion has been pretty thoroughly exploded that they [illegible]riably tender-hearted and compassionate in [illegible] with a hair-line sense of justice and an o[illegible]ing desire to succor their oppressed fellows. [illegible] readiness with which they have always bounced bombs, brickbats and ordinary paving rock off capitalistic heads to give their protests point has probably had something to do with the suspicion that they are not, save in theory, interested in the practice of sober, meditative justice; and the fact that they invariably make the case protested the simple tail to a tremendous propaganda kite suggests a group less concerned with justice as an end than as a means.

No doubt there are many sincere and intelligent persons who honestly believe that a serious injustice has been done in the case of the Alabama Negroes, just as there were many sincere and intelligent persons who believed that Sacco and Vanzetti should never have been put to death. But the Communist voices from the four corners of the globe too much resemble a professional chorus which has been drilled to sing the same old words and music. As for the bottle throwing gestures, they are a part of the same reliable technique. We often wonder if the window smashers do not sometimes forget, in their lusty zeal for being conspicuous, just what they are protesting.

In your editorial, "Jury or Mob?" of June 8, you uphold the officious attempts being made by various New Yorkers to secure a new trial for the eight negroes condemned to death in Scottsboro, Ala. Such interference in the affairs of another community is entirely uncalled for.

Residents of Scottsboro have just cause for resentment and indignation. Consider the reaction of New Yorkers of a group of Alabamans had publicly protested the conviction of FRANCIS CROWLEY. And yet CROWLEY was fully as much a victim of local hatred and passion as were the eight negroes in Scottsboro.

As a native New Yorker, I believe we owe our southern neighbors an apology for the conduct of certain overzealous fellow citizens.

The Star holds no brief for the women in question. White girls who masquerade in male attire and go hoboing in the same freight car with men of any race are not deserving of any particular sympathy. But none the less, this protest from northerners is without foundation. The contention that negroes cannot receive justice in the south is ridiculous. In evidence thereof, we cite the case of a friendless black man recently arraigned in the New Hanover courts for the murder of a white night watchman. Without counsel, he was dependent upon the court for aid. The court selected for him one of the most eminent counsellors at the criminal bar, a gentleman who conducted a vigorous defense against able prosecution. A jury of white men declared the man not guilty.

New York critics could find considerable material for their talents nearer home. For example, we have yet to hear of any pious voice raised in righteous protest against the framing of innocent women by New York policemen.

Charleston. S. C., Evening Post
Wednesday, June 17, 1931

Consulate Stoned by Young Radicals

Leipsic, Germany, June 18. (AP)—An attack on the American consulate by a mob of communist youths last night was attributed by police today to resentment over the impending execution of eight negroes in the United States.

The marauders hurled stones at the building and broke a number of windows. Messages hurled through the windows indicated the youths were protesting the death sentences of eight negroes convicted of attacks on two white girls at Scottsboro, Ala.

Lynchings-1931

Alabama.

3349

Legal Punishment for Rape.

TWO ASSAULTS ON ALABAMA'S GOOD NAME

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

7-19-31

For some months Alabama has been under bitter and malign attack from two sources. Our people, for the most part, naturally are deeply resentful of these attacks because in both instances they are unjust. They are confident that the State's reputation will be redeemed from the clouds which have been fashioned for it, for they know that the facts are favorable to the continued good name of their State, and once these facts are given their rightful place in the consciousness, of the public, falsehood will give way.

The two assaults upon the moral standards of Alabama's people have issued from widely different sources, and have nothing in common. One of these attacks, incredibly enough, comes from a defeated Alabama politician who for 30 years was systematically honored and acclaimed far beyond his merits by the people of this State. His fellow citizens indulged practically every whim of this spoiled and selfish son of our soil. When in the course of this man's career he came upon a time when his offenses against the people outweighed the satisfactions which his public service had afforded them, and it became apparent that he could not again be elected to high office, he turned in his rage and despair and almost from the beginning of his last struggle sought to prepare his vanity for the jar that awaited it by charging that an attempt would be made to steal the election from him. His thesis was that it was humanly impossible for any other man to have greater strength before the people than he and that he could be unseated only by systematic robbery of ballot boxes. Experienced political observers knew from the outset that Heflin believed he was a beaten man; and so he was—as it turned out, a badly beaten man.

Heflin immediately charged wholesale fraud, corruption and "burglary." He demanded and received a senatorial investigation of the election in which he was so soundly trounced. He has persistently charged that Alabama's election officers were thieves, notwithstanding that they were the same type of officers who had served in all the previous elections in which he had been victorious, and notwithstanding that he had as many watchers and supporters in the voting booths as his opponent had.

Heflin has cooperated with the Republican party in discrediting a Democratic State election. He has played weakly and selfishly into the hands of politicians who have a score to settle with the Democratic party, and who are desperately seeking to organize the next United States Senate by denying a Democrat his honestly-won seat until the Republicans shall have had time to effect their organization.

Heflin has exhausted his powers of misrepresentation to put his native State in a bad light before the world. He has done all that he could to give the American people the impression that the people who until 1930 had treated him with rare generosity had at last become hopelessly corrupt and vicious. Heflin has done his best to give his country the impression that Alabama is on a par with Pennsylvania and Illinois in the matter of raw elections.

Yet every informed, fair-minded Alabamian knows that Tom Heflin is not the victim of fraud. He is but the victim of his own folly. He was squarely beaten and he knows it.

So much for the harm that the blind selfishness of a pampered son has done his native State.

The other calumny comes as readily to mind. We refer to the agitation in the United States and in some of the foreign countries that has followed the conviction of the Negroes in the "Scottsboro case." Communists have sought to capitalize the conviction of these men solely in the interest of their political propaganda. Now it does not distress a Communist to witness an act of injustice to any human being. It does not distress a Communist to hear of the death, either from natural causes, suicide or public execution of any human being. All that a Communist cares for is the dollar he hopes to gain by means of that form of robbery that has the sanction of a group, and the power which may accrue to him by the downfall of others. Americans have been mobbing people a long time. Sometimes they burn at the stake, sometimes they eviscerate, sometimes they hang, sometimes they shoot their victims. But this never disturbs a Communist—unless the victim of the mob happens to belong to a class from which the Communist hopes to draw recruits for his war against all property and all decency. If the Communist thinks he can use the friends of a victim of any public or private action, then the Communist begins to bellow and stink. Otherwise all children under ten in this hated capitalistic republic could be chloroformed like surplus kittens without exciting a murmur of protest from any Communist agitator on the earth which he defiles by his touch.

So much for the brigands who are out to win recruits at any price.

There is another American type, represented by Dreiser and Steffans, which looks for a Sacco-Vanzetti case under the eaves of every courthouse. He battens and thrives on atrocities, real and imaginary. Without atrocities to contemplate (and exploit) men of this type would feel useless. Looking for trouble, they usually find it.

Then there are the Einsteins and the Manns, those highly sensitized organisms which, while not naturally given to agitation, are easily victimized by organized propaganda. The truth about Scottsboro was never told them. They were misled by liars. They should have had better judgment, if not better taste, than to lend the weight of their names to an injudicious protest against what they seem to believe was a judicial outrage.

Fortunately the common sense of the masses of the American people does not seem to have forsaken them. They do not seem to be much impressed by the manufactured maledictions which are being hurled at Alabama by Communist scoundrels on the one hand and misguided humanitarians on the other. The moderates in America have not lost sight of the fact that instead of lynching nine Negroes who assaulted two white girls, after beating up and chasing off six white men, Alabama gave the offenders as fair a trial as it was possible to give. The case against the accused was overwhelming in its force.

The comment of the moderates generally is in defense of Alabama's good faith.

Nevertheless the abuse of the State on the strength of false premises continues unabated, and before it is over the State's reputation may be made to suffer.

In neither instance—that of the Scottsboro affair nor that of the Heflin-Bankhead election—did Alabama outrage anybody. But in consequence of its orderly, correct action in both instances the State has itself been outraged.

The Reds are Ahead

It may be treasonable to say it, however, as the Scottsboro case stands today, the Communists have the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People licked.

The reds are not only national, they are international. A word from Moscow sent bricks hurtling against the windows of American consulates in European countries. U.S. consuls there who have never heard of any Alabama town under the name of Scottsboro, have been forced to cable home that foreigners are protesting against the legal lynching of these eight black boys down in Dixie.

When the Scottsboro case broke, and controversy arose between the Reds and the N.A.A.C.P., as to who should defend the boys and, if needed, appeal their cases, the AFRO declared there was work enough for all of the friends of the Negro today, and that it would be regrettable if those who fight our battles, lose sight of the common enemy and wage a civil war among themselves.

Yet that is what has happened.

Two groups of lawyers have been hired. One would be enough. Both organizations are holding meetings throughout the country, both collecting funds.

In New York and Boston, the Reds have invaded the N.A.A.C.P. meetings and heckled the speakers.

They have secured signatures of the accused boys and their parents so that they, the Reds, are the sole legal representatives in the case. The N.A.A.C.P. may only co-operate with the permission of the Reds. It's in court with no clients.

And finally, the Reds have so maneuvered the situation that the mother of one of the con-

Afro-American

7-11-31

Baltimore, Md

demned boys is refused permission to speak at a public mass meeting in the interest of her son at which meeting funds were being raised to save him from the electric chair.

No stranger situation has developed in recent years. Yes, the Reds have the N.A.A.C.P. licked to date.

Whether Mr. Walter White, Mr. William Pickens and their associates, heroes of many public battles for human rights, will stay licked is a different matter.

Urges Prayer Day for Scottsboro Boys

Defender
Chicago

BOSTON, July 17.—Bishop W. J. Walls of the A. M. E. Zion church and vice president of the National Equal Rights league, has issued a call to all ministers throughout the United States to set aside Sunday, July 19, as "Prayer" day for the Scottsboro case victims.

7-18-31

In a stirring letter sent out to ministers and to the press, the bishop scores Arthur Brisbane, noted columnist and editorial writer for the Hearst papers, for his attitude toward the Scottsboro case.

"Professor Einstein," says Bishop Walls, "wrote President Hoover, protesting against the death sentences for these eight boys, and Arthur Brisbane, popular columnist, tells Dr. Einstein that 'President Hoover has nothing to do with the matter.'

"Mr. Brisbane is true to form. He is always 100 per cent American or 100 per cent white man, but he is never humanitarian except when he grows academic. He has the first time yet, like thousands of others, to use his great power to strike a sledge-hammer blow for humanity. He loses another opportunity in trying to decoy Mr. Einstein from the main point of the lynching of innocent boys by a law court.

"The interracial social question is not on trial. American civilization is on trial. And President Hoover, being an American citizen, should not be any less concerned about American civilization than any other American citizen. Office multiplies influence and influence multiplies responsibility. President Hoover is our chief officer, and hence, most responsible to create the sentiment that guarantees justice and equality before the law."

Bishop Walls urged that everyone in this country set aside a part of Sunday to pray that these boys may be saved and that "American civilization may be saved." The real observation of prayer day will begin with the Fort Wagner celebration, which is observed annually in Boston on July 18. Rev. D. S. Klugh, pastor of the People's Baptist church, will lead the ceremonies at his church and will call Sunday a "Union Day of Prayer." Other ministers asked to

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Scottsboro Howl Out Of Belgium

Advertiser

Belgium was enrolled on the list of foreign nations certain of whose citizens are concerning themselves about the Scottsboro cases, when a cablegram was delivered at the State executive department yesterday, from Brussels, Belgium.

7-14-31

The message was from the Comite Central Secours Rouge Belge. It conveyed the protest of this committee against the condemning to death of the eight negroes convicted in Jackson County for criminally assaulting two young white girls, and "demanded" the immediate liberation of the condemned men.

Montgomery, Ala.

Another communication arriving from Geneva, Switzerland, brought a like protest from the Revolutionary Workers of French Switzerland. From Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, came a message transmitting the text of a resolution of protest adopted at a mass meeting of 500 "workers" there.

7-14-31

Numerous other letters and telegrams of similar tenor were received from various sections of the United States.

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.
HERALD

JUL 3 1931

THE ALABAMA CASE

In the far South it is considered disgraceful for whites to be bested in a fist fight by blacks. The cause celebre which is attracting attention in Alabama has as its roots the fact that white hoodlums were beaten up in a freight car by black hoodlums, and it was discovered afterwards that two of the whites were girls dressed as boys. The eight blacks, however, were sentenced to be executed for alleged attacks on the girls. The case is completely shot through with race prejudice, according to the testimony of impartial investigators.

As is fairly well known, the higher courts of the South are not prone to be influenced by prejudice of this kind. There is a strong probability that the appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court will result in a better degree of justice being dispensed.

Girls who, dressed as boys, go joy riding in a freight train with boys are doing a dubious thing. When a fight started with the ~~Negro~~ interlopers for possession of the "wayside Pullman" it is scarcely likely that the interlopers regarded their adversaries as others than youths. The disgrace of the Caucasians in being bested by the African-Americans, however, must have been keen. The theory, at least, is that in revenge for the beating administered, the Caucasians testified to the complication which under Alabama law would lead the eight blacks to the noose. The state Supreme court, it is generally believed, will most thoroughly analyze the various motives and see that no miscarriage of justice transpires.

UTICA, N. Y.
PRESS

JUL 18 1931

REDS AND LIBERALS PROTEST

What has become known as the Scottsboro case, which has become the excuse for some Communist demonstrations in this country and abroad and the basis of some liberal or radical protests, involves nine negro youths in Alabama, eight of whom have been convicted of criminal assault upon two white girls and sentenced to death. There was a mistrial in the case of the ninth. The evidence as presented by the prosecution showed the negroes entered a freight car in which two white girls and seven white boys were stealing a ride back to their homes from Chattanooga where the girls had been seeking work. When the negroes entered the box car a fight between them and the white boys followed, in which the latter were worsted and thrown out. Afterward the negroes attacked the two girls. The defense denied the latter charge, asserting the negroes were arrested for entering the car and that the crime of which they were convicted was framed against them.

To assertions of framing the negroes and of denying them fair trials, the police and prosecuting authorities of the county reply by citing that the sheriff after the arrest of the colored youths organized a guard of responsible citizens to prevent any possible attempt at lynching until the arrival of a force of the National Guard. Further, they note, that although the trials drew crowds to Scottsboro, the authorities took ample precautions against courtroom demonstrations hostile to the prisoners or any manifestation designed to influence the juries; also the accused confessed the criminal assaults upon the two girls, each of the negroes trying to pass the blame to the others. There were four trials, the jury in one being out all night before reaching a verdict and another all day.

The foregoing is the substance of the reply of the police and prosecuting authorities to claims that the negroes were denied a fair trial and their other legal rights and are the innocent victims of a bitter race prejudice or of a system which reasonably assures justice for the white accused and injustice for the black. On the above statement of the case, there seems little basis for the demonstrations and protests, all made at places far distant from Scottsboro, in which the leaders of such movements have accepted hearsay or ex parte statements as accurate largely because these agree with their assumptions, their preferences of their prejudices.

Perhaps the Reds and the so-called Liberals, who have taken up the case of the Scottsboro negroes may be able to make as much of it as they did of the Sacco and Vanzetti case and occasionally are trying to make of that of Mooney and Billings. Whatever doubts others may have that judicial processes erred in all these cases and that police and prosecutors framed cases against the accused, these protestants have no doubt of either. Equally they are convinced that the machinery of the law in them moved throughout vindictively and ruthlessly in response to the ruling sentiment of the time or community. With this assumed as a starting point by the defenders of human rights, no evidence supporting the charges against the accused deserves even consideration by them. Their conviction that those tried and found guilty are innocent, apparently, too, increases in proportion to the viciousness or revolting nature of the alleged crime.

AMAZING IMPUDENCE.

Constitution

Scarcely anything could be more impudent and repulsive than the demand by the "Civil Liberties Union," of New York City upon Governor Miller, of Alabama. That offensive cabal insists that he shall order the eight negroes indicted for criminal assaults upon two white girls to be tried again by a jury "composed half of whites and half of negroes"!

7-26-31

Atlanta, Ga.

It is amazing that any intelligent person claiming an interest in the performance of justice should conceive that Governor Miller, or any other governor, can intervene in the orderly conduct of the judicial establishment of the state. That Huntsville enormity, so strongly provocative of mob usurpation, was dealt with in a manner to challenge the commendation of the country. The accused violators were protected from lynching by the armed force of the state; were brought to trial under like protection; were tried by a legally framed jury; convicted without show of passion and are now awaiting punishment.

The so-called "Civil Liberties Union," whose record is that of backer and rescue squad for criminals and communists caught in their evil works, insults Governor Miller and his state by assuming that injustice is being wrought upon those whose brutal crimes were fully established in open trials. And, of course, Governor Miller will pay no more attention to this demand of the "Civil Liberties Union" than he would to the hootings of so many moon-struck owls.

The people of Alabama and their governor have shown their allegiance to law and their responsibility to justice, strikingly so in their treatment of that Huntsville multiple outrage. They can be trusted to go through with the affair in lawful order and in the conclusion will deserve and receive the approval of all honest people.

Lynchings-1931

. Legal Punishment for Rape.

3350

Alabama.

9 Negroes Go On Trial For Attack At Scottsboro Today

Advertiser 4-6-31

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., April 5.—(AP)—Everything was in readiness tonight for the trial of nine negroes here tomorrow on charges of attacking two young Huntsville girls on a freight train near here 10 days ago. Montgomery

A special venire of 100 jurymen has been called and court attaches expressed the opinion that the trial would move forward rapidly. Every precaution to prevent any disorder incident to the trial has been taken. The negroes will be brought here on a bus, under military escort, from Gadsden, where they have been held for safe-keeping.

National Guardsmen will stand watch over the courthouse and jail, and persons probably will be searched for arms before being permitted to enter to hear the trial.

Besides the two victims, girls aged 17 and 20, the State probably will call seven white youths who were companions of the girls in "bumming" a ride on a Southern Railway freight train from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Huntsville.

Sheriff M. L. Wann, who, with his deputies and 10 citizen volunteers, staved off a threatening crowd that gathered about the jail the night the negroes were arrested, has announced that six of the nine negroes have confessed and implicated the other three.

Interest in this mountainous section has been intense and indications pointed to a big crowd gathering for the trial with seating space at a premium.

Orders were issued at Montgomery yesterday for a detachment of 70 National Guardsmen under the command of Maj. Joe Starnes, of Guntersville, commander of the Second Batallion of the 167th Infantry, to escort the negroes here and guard the courthouse through the trial.

The negroes will be defended by six attorneys appointed by the court.

Court records for the State fail to reveal a similar number of men facing trial charged with a capital offense for many years.

The negroes were arrested by a posse at Paint Rock, after six of the white youths accompanying the girls had been thrown from the train and notified the station agent at Stevenson. The girls told authorities that the negroes boarded the car they were riding, an empty coal car, and ordered the youths to jump. When they refused, a fight ensued, six were thrown off, and the other youth knocked unconscious.

A special grand jury last week returned two counts against each of the negroes, and the two joint counts against the nine.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

APR 1 9 1931

Under Alabama Law

Review of the Freight Train Episode for Which Eight Negro Boys Face Death Penalty

To the New York Herald Tribune:

The "Massacre of Gadsden"! That is what it will be called in the indifferent future, if the State of Alabama proceeds to put to death eight Negro boys on the ostensible charge that they "assaulted" two white girls, but really out of revenge because they licked the mischief out of a gang of white youths. People forget that the newspapers have not given us one word from these boys; that the court in Alabama was set to legally lynch these youngsters; that the mob was there to see that the lynching was done either by the court or by themselves; that a great yell, like that of triumphant savages, went up from the mob when the verdicts of the juries indicated that the court was yielding to the mob pressure. These boys have had no trial—eight sent to the electric chair in three days. They have had no defense. They have seen no colored people, no attorneys of their people's choosing. They have been convicted on the testimony of two hobo girls who were pals of the white youths whom they licked. And yet an apparently gullible public seems to think that there is some truth in the charges against them.

I am a Southerner. I have had to engage in such racial fights in the past. Let me reconstruct for you what, in all reasonable probability, happened. Nine white youths were "hoboing" in a convenient empty and open freight car. Nine colored lads entered, or wanted to enter, the same car, also as hoboes. (You will notice that our newspapers, even in the North, refer to these colored children as "Negroes," saying nothing about their being mere children and leaving the impression on the ignorant public that they are men. That is part of the scheme to get them murdered without waking up public sympathy. As a matter of fact, they are children in their early teens, one being only fourteen and only one being above twenty.)

But on with the story: The white hoboes wanted to deny equality to these young black hoboes. In the South, where "Jim Crow" is the system, even a white hobo feels superior to a black one. They have been taught that by the system; even in jails black criminals are segregated, as if inferior to the white ones. Even the graveyards are segregated. These whites, who were stealing a ride, did not want to steal it in the same company with Negroes who meant to steal a ride.

A fight ensued, and the nine Negro youths licked the nine white youths, all of whom were dressed in hobo clothes and overalls. But two of the whites turned out to be girls. When the whites were all whipped, five having been chased away and the other boys "kayoed," who in forty-eight states, being acquainted with the South and the small chance of self-defense which colored people have there, will ever believe that the colored lads then tarried to "assault" the girls? They knew that the boys whom they had chased from the scene would be back immediately with a mob to lynch them.

The blacks doubtless made their getaway as fast as they could go. You could hardly get nine Negro boys in Alabama to do anything else except hurry away, after they had licked nine whites and found two to be girls, unless the whole group of Negroes had just broken out of an insane asylum. Sex assault after such a struggle could hardly even be thought of, unless all nine were not only fools, but hopeless degenerates. And that is not likely in a group of nine persons who were not carefully picked out of some asylum for the feeble-minded.

Nevertheless, the defeated white youths held the boss trump card, who would expect them to fail to use it? Two of their hobo crowd were girls, and a cry of "rape" would bring all Alabama to their aid. The Negro lads would be hunted to the death. It is a great sting of disgrace to a Southern white to be licked in any fight, fair or foul, by a black—and here was an easy way to get even.

If the Governor of Alabama is as wise as he is eminent he will not send these homeless Negro children to their death until he has thoroughly investigated the whole affair through his own agents. All civilized people everywhere should urge him to that course.

It should not go unnoticed that the law which executes men for sex attack in the South is enforced only against Negro men and boys—has never been enforced against a white man, although at least one hundred sex attacks are committed in that section by whites against blacks for every one that is attempted by blacks against whites. The law is a subterfuge to be used only against Negroes.

WILLIAM PICKENS,
Field Secretary, National Association
for the Advancement of Colored
People.

New York, April 15, 1931.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
Friday, April 10. 1931

NEGROES RIOT IN GADSDEN TO PROTEST DOOM

Eight Under Sentence to Chair Put in Irons

GUARDS ENTERED AND SUBDUED RIOTERS

Oaths Hurled at Court, officers and White People Were Heard Far

GADSDEN, April 10 (AP)—Protesting against their sentences, eight negroes condemned to death at Scottsboro yesterday, rioted in the Etowah county jail, and only subsided after extra guards had been summoned and they were placed in irons.

The negroes, Clarence Norris, 19, Eugene Williams, 19, Heywood Patterson, 17, Andy Wright 17 all of Chattanooga; Charlie Weems 20, and Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta; Willie Roberson, 17, Columbus, Ga., and Olen Montgomery 17, of Monroe, Ga., were brought here under military escort, with Roy Wright, 14, whose case resulted in a mistrial. The others were all convicted by juries.

The 14 year old negro was confined in a separate cell and did not participate in the riot.

Sheriff Griffin said this morning all was quiet and that during the day the negroes would be removed to Kilby prison. The sheriff expressed the belief that the negroes had sought to lure the jailer into the "bull pen" to quiet them, so they could overpower him and escape.

The negroes who were returned here under military escort after being sentenced for attacks on two Huntsville girls aboard a freight train, shouted demands for special food, beat on the cell bars and tore up the bedding.

Oaths they hurled at the court, officers and white people generally were heard some distance from the jail, and Sheriff T. L. Griffin, who occupies an apartment on the lower floor of the jail, removed his family for the night.

Sheriff Griffin appealed to military authorities for aid, and Col. W. M. Thompson, commanding the 167th infantry, and Capt. C. C. Whitehead, commanding Co. F., of the 167th infantry, went to the jail.

With sufficient guards to prevent an attempted break, the "bull pen" in which the negroes were confined was opened, and guards went in and subdued the negroes, handcuffing them in pairs.

Extra guards were placed on the jail throughout the night and today, pending removal of the negroes to Kilby prison at Montgomery.

When finally quieted and asked what was the matter, one of the negroes replied, "We just don't like that death sentence."

Welcome Investigation

FORT PAYNE, April 10 (AP)—Judge J. A. Hawkins, trial judge who sentenced eight negroes to death at Scottsboro, Ala., yesterday following conviction of attacking two white girls, today reiterated his previous statement that he would welcome an investigation of the trials which the International Labor Defense of New York has said it will make.

"Let them come on," Judge Hawkins said. "I still say I will welcome any investigation of the trial they want to make. However, it seems to me that they are investigating at the wrong time. I wonder what interests they have in the case and whether the defendants are members of the organization?"

Judge Hawkins came here yesterday after discharging the jury in the fourth case which resulted in a mistrial because seven of the jurors held out for a death penalty for Roy Wright, 14 year old Chattanooga negro, for whom the state had asked life imprisonment.

In its telegram to the judge, the International Labor Defense said an attorney was being sent to investigate, "meantime, we demand stay of execution and opportunity to investigate and prepare for new trial or appeal. We demand the right for our attorney to interview defendants and obtain formal approval of defense counsel. And above all we demand absolute safety for defendants against lynching."

During the trials at Scottsboro, the International Labor Defense wired Judge Hawkins a protest "against an attempt at legal lynching of nine young negro workers on framed up assault charges.

The judge in reply said the defendants were being given a fair trial and he would welcome an investigation. He was joined by the solicitor and Stephen Roddy, of Chattanooga, chief of defense counsel, in declaring the trials fair and just.

A Bunch of Telegrams

MONTGOMERY, April 10 (AP)—Governor B. M. Miller said today he had received three telegrams from New York organizations protesting against the trials of the nine negroes at Scottsboro on attack charges which were being filed and on which he had no comment to make.

The International Labor Defense sent one of the telegrams, demanding stay of execution and protesting "this legal lynching."

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights, of New York, sent a telegram signed by B. D. Amis, president, charging the trials were a "deliberate frameup" and that the negroes were "railroaded to the chair."

The third telegram was signed Robert W. Dunn, president of the Anti-Imperialist League of the United States, which said the sentencing in 48 hours "was just such methods as are used by American imperialists in Caribbean countries where Latin-American and negro peons are being executed without trial. We demand the unconditional release of these workers."

Morristown, Tenn., Gazette
Wednesday, April 15, 1931

Will Oppose Death of Eight Negroes

(By Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., April 15.—The International Labor Defense will oppose the death sentence imposed on eight negroes by the Jackson county jury at Scottsboro last week for attacking two white girls on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., March 14.

Douglas McKenzie, district representative and Allan Traubb, New York attorney, issued a statement yesterday after a conference with the negroes who are in the Jefferson county jail for safe keeping charging that the negroes had been "framed" and that a notice of appeal would be filed immediately.

Move 8 Negro Youths from Scotsboro as Workers Protest Legal Lynching

Daily Worker
4-14-31

Alabama Bosses Tremble Over Rising Wave of Working Class Resentment—Fear May Day Demonstrations Against Terror

New York,

BULLETIN

NEW YORK.—Twenty thousand workers present at the 9th Anniversary Celebration of the Morning Freiheit, adopted by acclamation the following telegram to Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama:

"Governor B. M. Miller,
Montgomery, Ala.

N.Y.

"20,000 workers gathered at the Bronx Coliseum to protest strongly the proposed frame-up of eight young Negro workers and their railroading through the courts to burn them in the electric chair. We hold the officials of the State of Alabama responsible.

"We demand the immediate release of these young Negro workers, who did not allow themselves to be thrown off of a moving train. We call all workers of Alabama, Negro and white, to join in solidarity against mass hunger, unemployment and lynching.

"Long live the unity of the white and Negro workers, native and foreign born."

* * *

SCOTSBORO, Ala., April 13.—Allan Taub, attorney for the International Labor Defense, arrived here today to press the protests of the I. L. D., backed by hundreds of thousands of white and Negro workers, against the legal lynching of eight Negro youths arranged by the Alabama bosses and their courts to take place July 10.

Taub has made the following demands upon the trial judge and the governor of Alabama:

1. a new trial for the eight boys with Negro workers on the jury;
2. Withdrawal of the National Guard whose presence is designed not to protect the eight youths but as a fake gesture of protection to cover up the lynching nature of the trial and to facilitate mob action against the youths; 3. recognition of the right of white and Negro workers to form defense corps to guard the eight youths against the threat of lynching raised by the bosses in their press.

Mass Protest Scare Boss Lynchers.

Resulting directly from the miltant protests of many working class organizations and mass meetings, the eight boys have been transferred from the local prison to Birmingham, where the danger of their being victims of mob lynching is somewhat lessened. The protest telegrams and resolutions being sent the governor and trial judge are plastered over the southern press and the bosses are beginning to show great concern at the extent to which the vicious nature of the trial is being exposed and the working masses, white and Negro mobilized for the defense of the eight Negro youths.

Among the organizations known to have sent telegrams of protest so far to Governor B. M. Miller, at Montgomery, Ala., are: The Trade Union Unity League, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the International Labor Defense, the Anti-Imperialist League of the United States, and the Young Communist League. Protest telegrams have also been sent from mass meetings of 1,300 workers in Cleveland, Ohio; 18,000 at the Freiheit Ninth Anniversary Celebration, at Bronx Coliseum, New York City; and from nearly a thousand Negro and white workers who packed St. Luke's Hall, 125 West 130th St., New York City, last Friday night.

Demonstrate May Day!

The rising working class protests, together with the nation-wide preparations for militant, gigantic May Day demonstrations against the boss terror and frame-ups, against starvation and wage-cuts, and for unemployment relief and insurance, for the rights of the Negro masses, has struck terror into the heart of the Southern white ruling class.

The workers, white and Negro, native born and foreign born, must continue the fight to smash the murderous frame-up and planned legal lynching of these eight young Negro workers.

Workers! See that your organization wires protests at once to the governor of Alabama; Negro workers Break down the treacherous co-operation of the Negro misleaders with the Southern lynching gang! Raise militant demands in your organizations! Send committees to the Negro reformist papers and demand that they stop printing news of the "trial" from the bosses' point of view! Demand that they stop peddling the infamous lie of a "fair trial" of "protection" by the National Guard! Demand that they give more than two inches on an inside page to this attempt to crush out the lives of eight Negro lads on a frame-up charge of raping two prostitutes!

Rush Funds to ILD!

Workers in the A. F. of L.! See that your locals protest this mass murder! Break down the resistance of the fascist bureaucrats! Join the struggle to save the lives of these young workers and crush the terror of the bosses against the Negro and foreign born workers!

Rush your protests to the governor of Alabama! Rush funds immediately to the national office of the International Labor Defense, at 80 E. 11th St., so that the defense may not be hampered! Join the struggle for Negro fights, for the right of the suppressed Negro majorities of the Black Belt of the southern states to determine and control their own form of government, for national liberation for the masses of Africa and the West Indies!

Arrange mass meetings, arrange street and factory gate meetings! Rouse the masses to the menace against these eight young members of our class! Mobilize the workers and poor farmers for the defense of these eight victims of boss frame-up and terror!

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17 AWAITING DEATH AT KILBY PRISON

Advertiser

Thirteen Of Condemned Have Appeals Pending; Four To Die May 15

4-29-31

Seventeen condemned men are now confined within the walls of Kilby Penitentiary, which last night housed more prisoners under sentence of death than ever before at one time in the institution's history. All of these convicts are negroes.

Montgomery

Thirteen of the condemned are at Kilby for safe-keep'ng, pending appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court. The other four are to be executed on May 15 unless Gov. B. M. Miller should decide to extend clemency in the form of commutation of sentence.

These four are, Toy May, Spencer Bates and Tom Robinson, of Sumter County, and Willie Brown, of Houston. Robinson was convicted of the murder of Grover Boyd, at Emelle last Summer, which precipitated the series of disorders that cost a total of eight lives before peace was restored.

Of the 13 held for safe-keeping, eight were convicted recently at Scottsboro, of Criminally assaulting two young white women. They were committed to Kilby last Monday by Sheriff A. J. Hawkins, of Jefferson County and a squad of deputies who brought the negroes here from Birmingham, where they had been confined temporarily in the County Jail.

The eight condemned men, who were transferred to Kilby by automobile are: Haywood Patterson, Charlie Weems, Clarence Norris, Eugene Williams, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson, Andy Wright and Olen Montgomery. They are to remain in the custody of Warden George P. Walls until the high court has acted on their respective appeals. Until the Supreme Court acts, their executions which were originally set by the trial court for July 10, are automatically suspended.

Another negro, Roy Wright, 14, in whose case a mistrial resulted at Scottsboro, and who was co-defendant with the eight men already named, is still being held at Birmingham.

SOUTHERNERS APPEAL FOR YOUTHS CONDEMNED AT SCOTTSBORO

Reporter
5-16-31

New York, May 14.—Nineteen southerners living in this city have telegraphed to Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama urging a new trial for the eight youths condemned to die at Scottsboro, Alabama, after having been convicted of an attack on two white girl hoboes.

Birmingham

Signers of the appeal included Dr. W. Russell Bowie, rector of Grace Episcopal Church; Prof. George Mitchell of Columbia University; Prof. Lois Macdonald and Prof. William L. Nunn of New York University, and Margaret Flenniken of the national board of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Ala.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3351

Birmingham, Ala. News
Thursday, June 11, 1931

Negroes At Scottsboro Tried Too Quickly For Justice, Defense Plea

BY J. F. ROTHERMEL

Was the trial of the nine negroes at Scottsboro on a charge of attacking two white girls too speedy to allow justice? This is the charge for consideration in this article of the series about the case, interest in which has spread beyond the limits of the United States.

In the search for the truth of the matter, the writer has found facts which support contention of both sides regarding the justice of the trials being held only 12 days after the alleged commission of the attack.

It is argued on the one hand that a speedy trial was the best assurance the nine defendants could have of escaping mob violence. Indeed, on that first night while the negroes were held in the Scottsboro jail, the crowd outside demanding their release was quieted in large part by the assurance of officials that a speedy trial would be held. Arrangements were taken that night to call the Grand Jury into special session and to set a special term of the Jackson County Circuit Court.

Two Courses Open

To a considerable degree the choice was between an early trial and resort to lynch law. As one official put it, quoting Grover Cleveland, "We faced a fact, not a theory, and a speedy trial was better than no trial."

A speedy trial, however, does not necessarily mean an unjust trial. The matter goes deeper than mere earliness of trial.

The question becomes, then, did those nine negro defendants have opportunity in those 12 days to make the defense which the law and American standards guarantee to all prisoners regardless of crime or circumstances?

Whatever Judge Hawkins could do to assure the negroes proper defense was done according to the proceedings of the case. When the negroes were arraigned before him six days before the day of the trial, he inquired whether they had an attorney. They had none. He thereupon appointed, as the law allows, counsel for them. Because of the number of defendants and the character of the case, he appointed all members of the Scottsboro bar to represent the negroes.

The number of lawyers in Scottsboro, however, is limited. The county solicitor was not available because of his position. Moreover, the law firm composed of John M. Snodgrass and John W. Proctor had been engaged to assist in the prosecution. Money for their fee was raised among residents of the county.

This left only two Scottsboro attorneys to represent the negroes.

Moreover, working without assurance of pay, as these state-appointed attorneys were, there was naturally a reluctance to go to any great expense in preparing the defense case. The negroes were removed to Birmingham immediately after the arraignment and for the lawyer to have talked to them would have necessitated a trip here.

Other Elements Enter

Still another element making difficult the preparation of any defense case was the fact that none of the defendants had their home in Alabama. Four of them were from Tennessee and five from Georgia. This increased the cost of a defense, and made very difficult obtaining some evidence, especially that in regard to the ages of the defendants, a point in dispute.

Another fact to be considered is the illiteracy of the negroes. In one statement attested to by all negroes, only two signed their names. The other seven made their mark. Possibly others have more education than this shows, however, as when the writer questioned them about their education, they all declared they had been to school for at least a year. Still more doubt is thrown upon the matter by the fact that one of the negroes who had only made his mark to the document in question told the reporter he had written letters to his mother asking for help.

However, here was the situation of nine negroes, from 100 to 300 miles from home, all more or less uneducated, penniless and virtually without legal counsel and charged with the South's most serious crime.

Until the time of the trial, the negroes, it appears, did not see a lawyer about their case. Some of them, it is true, made no attempt to employ a lawyer, even though their lives were at stake?

Why? Well, there are several reasons. "I didn't have no money and my folks ain't got none, so what good would it do to hire a lawyer?" one negro said. Another: "Why I didn't think they would convict us, and I didn't see no need for a lawyer man." Several others said they had tried to get in touch with their home folks. They said they did not know whether the letters were ever sent.

Another Angle In Case

Still another angle of the matter of a counsel is the confusion as to who was entitled to act as counsel at the trial. When the negroes were arraigned and the court had appointed all available Scottsboro attorneys to act for the defense, a Chattanooga lawyer, Stephen Roddy, appeared. He said he had been employed by interested parties (later revealed as an alliance of negro ministers), but was not prepared to serve as counsel. He asked to be allowed to assist.

However, one of the Scottsboro attorneys retired from the case, leaving only Milo Moody to carry on with the assistance of Mr. Roddy. The defendants did not talk over the case with the lawyers until the day of the trial, it is said. At the trial, the defense offered no testimony except of the defendants.

The confusion regarding attorneys for the defense has been complicated since the trial by the appearance of several others. Some say they have been employed by relatives, some say by the International Labor Defense, and others by organizations concerned, they declare, with justice for workers or negroes.

In view of all the facts in the case, the present claim by the defense that the negroes had no opportunity to employ counsel to present their case adequately seems on the whole to have some justification.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
Wednesday, June 10, 1931

BOTTLES ARE HURLED BY COMMUNISTS WHO ASSAIL "DEATH EDICT"

'Brotherly Union' Of Proletarians Is Hailed

DRESDEN, Germany, June 10. — (AP) — Bottles were thrown by communist youths last night at the office building containing the American consulate. The bottles contained messages saying: "Down with American murder and imperialism . . . Hail brotherly union of black and white proletarians and down with the bloody lynch law on our negro comrades."

Wolfe's News Agency said five youths were arrested but only one detained.

A communist newspaper said the disturbance was "a protest against the impending execution of eight young negro workers in the United States."

Eight negroes are under sentence at Scottsboro, Ala., to be executed July 10 as result of their conviction of charges of criminal attacks on two white girls.

EXECUTION DELAYED

SCOTTSBORO, June 10.—(Special)—By decision of the circuit court, granting more time to attorneys for the defense to file briefs in their appeal from the decision of a jury in the court, the death sentence of the eight negroes, convicted of attacking two white girls near here, automatically was delayed.

The negroes had been scheduled to die in the electric chair on July 10. They were convicted of having attacked two Huntsville mill workers aboard a train in Jackson county. The state contended the attack by the group of negroes occurred after the blacks had fought a group of white boys, including a male relative of one of the girls, and had forced most of the white boys off the train.

The girls said they had been in Chattanooga seeking work.

Communists Active

Communist and other agencies have been active recently in behalf of the negroes. Theodore Driesler, noted author, has been especially busy raising a defense fund to carry on the court fight for the eight negroes, who were taken to Kilby prison for safekeeping. The national guard protected them during their trial here.

Several demonstrations have been staged in New York city, but reports of the communist attack on the American consulate building in Berlin last night, reports of which were received here today, was the first known outbreak of violence in connection with the demonstrations.

ERIE, PA.
TIMES
JUN 12 1931

Mob Rule or Justice?

EIGHT young Negroes in Alabama are under sentence to die.

The eight, together with a ninth only 14 years old whose case resulted in a mistrial when one juror held out against the death penalty, were arrested on a freight train passing through Alabama. On the same train were two white girls dressed in men's clothes. The Negroes were charged with having attacked the girls.

During the trial of the nine at Scottsboro, Ala., the passions of the community became so violent that armed soldiers from the Alabama National Guard patrolled the streets. A menacing crowd gathered about the courthouse waiting for the verdict.

Do such conditions assure justice?

Do they even permit justice in sections where for a Negro to be alone with a white woman is to a large part of the white population presumptive evidence of assault?

These questions are being raised by the Civil Liberties Union, the International Labor Defense, the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, representing American liberals like Theodore Dreiser, Lincoln Steffens, Waldo Frank, Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes. They were urged last week in New York to demand a new trial for these Negroes.

When the retrial petition was presented to the judge at Scottsboro last Friday, Joseph R. Brodsky, of New York, counsel for the Negroes, told the court he had been warned by Scottsboro residents to "get out of town and stay out." Affidavits and counter-affidavits have been filed, among the former one to the effect that the two girls in the case were of "loose character" and had earlier associated with Negroes. The judge has allowed ten days for filing further affidavits and briefs.

In the interest of calm justice there should be a new trial for these Negroes.

It should be held in a new place, where local passions cannot seethe around the courthouse. Change the venue.

Nowhere in the United States should any man's life, least of all a Negro's, have to depend upon a verdict reached within or almost within earshot of an angry mob that has already condemned him to death.

We have had too much of that. No state can be proud of it.

Justice and the whole jury system demand that some way be sought to end it.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER
JUN 1 1 1931

TWO GERMAN DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Communists over in Europe appear about as much disturbed over conviction and sentence of the eight negroes in Alabama for criminal attack on a white girl, as they were over conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti. As an example, in the German city of Dresden, the Communists staged a "demonstration" in front of the United States consulate, located in a bank building. Windows were smashed, but the consul was not harmed. In explanation of the mobbery, the Communist leaders declared it was meant as a protest against the death sentence imposed on the negroes in Alabama. It has been noted that the Communists last week dispatched their agent to Alabama to protest against the death sentence, and by time the day or execution arrives a world-wide Communist snort will be heard about it. And while the anti-American demonstration was going on in Dresden, the University of Heidelburg was dedicating a new building in honor of Jacob Gould Sherman, retired Ambassador from Washington to Berlin, the dedication being announced as "a gesture of friendship on part of Germany toward America." Former Ambassador Sherman was further honored at the same ceremony, when the gold medal, "the highest distinction of the Baden State," was conferred on him. This demonstration was a sufficient off-set to that staged in Dresden.

Journal & Guide
6-13-31
Norfolk, Va.

COMMITTEE OF PROMINENT WHITES CALLS FOR THE RELEASE OF 8 BOYS CONDEMNED TO DIE IN THE SOUTH

Letter To Governor Calls Convictions Outrageous

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Release of eight young boys sentenced to electrocution for alleged rape in Scottsboro, Alabama is demanded in an open letter to the governor of Alabama, made public Monday by a defense group headed by Theodore Dreiser and Lincoln Steffens, white

The committee, which also includes John Dos Passos, Malcolm Cowley, Burton Rascoe, Dr. Henry Neumann, Suzanne LaFollette, Professor Franz Boaz, all white, and many others, is called the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, with headquarters at 80 East 11th Street, New York City. It is now in formation by a group of writers, artists, and intellectuals, prompted by "the present epidemic of racial, industrial, and political persecutions in our country," according to the secretary.

The open letter to the Governor of Alabama is the first move of the committee in its campaign for the Scottsboro victims whose cases are now being appealed in the courts of Alabama by the International Labor Defense.

The case involves nine young Negro boys, two of them fourteen, and all minors, 8 of whom have been sentenced to die in the electric chair on July 10. The open letter declares their conviction to be "the most outrageous travesty of the present decade—a lynching concealed in the forms of law."

The eight innocent Negro boys convicted to die in the electric chair on July 10 will, through George Chamlee and Joseph Brodsky, attorneys for the International Labor Defense, appear in court May 20 to demand a new trial on the grounds of "prejudice, new evidence and trial errors."

The transcript of the record of all the cases have been finally completed at the behest and paid for by the International Labor Defense and three attorneys in the South backed by a distinguished group of attorneys in New York City are going over the transcripts. In the case of the ninth boy, Roy Wright in which there was a mistrial, the International Labor Defense is now preparing for the new trial, its officials state.

6-19-31
Montgomery, Ala
Advertiser

THOUGHTS ON THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The agitation among Communists and others about the Scottsboro affair has become quite absurd, but it is hurtful. Press dispatches more than once have reported attacks upon American consulates in Germany by Communists who chose this means of protesting against the treatment of "workers" in Alabama.

The Communists care nothing for justice. They are not so much interested in protecting the rights of the condemned Negroes as they are in political agitation. Scottsboro is a convenience to them. It would do no good to argue with them and tell them the facts in the Alabama case. They want political thunder, not justice.

But one would think that men of the reputation of Dreiser and Steffens, who are not Communists, would think twice before lending the weight of their names to reckless denunciations of Alabama. One would expect men of their standing to inform themselves correctly before firing. This they have not done.

These self-appointed defenders of the eight condemned men are rendering a poor service to the Negro race. It has not been easy to lessen the potency of the mob spirit in Alabama. The leadership of the State has condemned mobs for decades, it has taken the right side of this question and stood for orderly government and orderly court procedure. A good many years had passed before mass opinion could be affected, but the time did come when Alabama could face the world and say that it was getting away from mob rule. Lynchings greatly declined. We could go year after year without mob action, then backslide, spoil the record by having a lynching. But for ten years the State's record has been infinitely better than it was in other days.

There was grave danger of an outbreak of the old mob spirit in Jackson county but a series of agreeable circumstances including the new gift of Alabamians for self-restraint, combined to spare the State's name from such a blemish.

And those of us who had fought lynch law all of these years applauded lustily. We felt a sense of pride in the grim mountaineers of High Jackson. They had let the law take its course under circumstances in which 20 years ago nothing could have restrained them.

Now the State is the object of calumny because the trials were expeditious, and because great crowds of curious onlookers attended them. Such attacks on Alabamians will merely make it harder to guarantee court trials of similar offenders in future.

The valued Selma Times-Journal is disposed to pooh-pooh all of this. While not admitting the accuracy of Dreiser's facts and the Communists' facts, The Times-Journal nevertheless lectures those of us who have defended Alabama against these outside attacks, and characterizes us as "provincial," and over-sensitive to criticism.

What, then, should be the attitude of Alabamians, especially Alabama newspapers? Should we print the calumnies without comment? If we comment shall we side with the calumniators to prove that whatever else we may be we are not "provincial?"

Who better than Alabamians can speak for the good name of the State? Who should be better fortified with information regarding Alabama questions, than an informed, responsible Alabamian? Who can have a better motive for defending the State against misrepresentation? Does expertness in the understanding of a local situation make one "provincial?" Must the local expert bow low and retire when the Dreisers, the Steffenses and the Communist politicians rise in their remote seats, and say, "We don't know much about the facts in this case, but we love justice, we don't like you, and we therefore pronounce a curse upon you?"

When, indeed, may one defend his neighbors, even though he knows his neighbors have been wronged, without inviting the criticism that one is "provincial?"

Speaking for itself, The Advertiser will say that if it believed the eight Negroes tried and condemned at Scottsboro had received a raw deal, it would not have waited for outsiders to come to their defense, but it would have condemned those who had wronged them. But The Advertiser has been satisfied from the beginning that justice was not mocked.

Recently The Birmingham News sent a competent reporter to Scottsboro to reexamine this whole matter and write of his findings. He wrote a series of eight articles reviewing the case.

In an editorial yesterday, commenting upon The News' investigation, The Age-Herald says, among other things:

> Following a careful consideration of Mr. Rothermel's findings, The Age-Herald remains convinced of the soundess of the view expressed by The Sunday News-Age-Herald of April 12. Nothing has been revealed that would indicate that the officials of the law failed to give the defendants ample protection or that they were deprived of any of their legal rights. Moreover, it is evident from the investigation that the trials were as fairly conducted as they were likely to have been in any county in the United States, North or South.
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> * * * *
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> The Age-Herald repeats the view that was expressed in The News Age-Herald of Sunday, April 12. As a newspaper that has always stood stanchly for justice by law, and against any for mof mob violence, The Age-Herald takes it upon itself to assure the people of the entire United States that no reasonable fault can be found with the fairness of the legality of the trials at Scottsboro.
>
> The Age-Herald repeats, however, that it could not presume to pass judgment on whether or not the severity of the sentences was merited. That was a matter for the court to determine. But it must be said that the trials were conducted in strict accordance with the law, and that the law provides for sentences such as were imposed on the defendants at Scottsboro for the crime of which they were convicted.

We only hope that the attacks which the outsiders are making upon Alabama courts will not (as we fear) make it harder for justice to prevail over lawless violence in future.

Lynchings - 1931
&
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3351

Huntsville, Ala., Times
Friday, March 27, 1931

Death Penalty Properly Demanded In Fiendish Crime of Nine Burly Negroes

The Daily Times commends the citizenship of Madison and Jackson counties for its cool-headedness in the trying moments surrounding the apprehension and preparation for speedy trial of the nine negro brutes who are alleged to have attacked two white girls on a Southern freight train at or near Scottsboro late Wednesday. An even dozen of these hellish criminals are said to have been on that train, three escaped, according to reports, but be that as it may meeting out of swift legal justice is the thing. The crime is described as the most astrocious ever recorded in this part of the country, a wholesale debauching of society and so horrible in its details that all of the facts can never be printed. The courts of Jackson county have acted wisely and promptly in promise of immediate grand jury investigation and trials. On conviction of the nine brutes who have been protected by law since their apprehension, this newspaper joins with the public and the duly constituted authorities in seeing that the law is carried out to the letter. That will prove wholesome for society as a whole. Our community and that of Jackson county suffered an outrage that should never have occurred. There's no complete remedy for the harm that has been done but to the credit of the citizens as a whole they have sustained respect for law and order by not contributing further to its undoing. Co-operation with the officers of the law, including the good work of the State Malitia and the officers at the scene of the trouble, good citizenship materially aided in conserving a situation from having become disastrous. This was a heinous and unspeakable crime, unthinkable in its deplorable conduct and savored of the jungle, the way back dark ages of meanest African corruption. The white man will not stand for such acts and because of this a sober mind and court are being allowed to take the place of incendiary and inflamatory maneuvers. Society is better for it. Our sympathy, too, runs for the two white girls who suffered the terrible attack and may God in His infinite mercy help all of us to forgive and forget.

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
Wednesday, April 8, 1931

THIRD NEGRO GETS DEATH SENTENCE FO ATTACKING GIRL

17-Year-Old Chattanooga Negro Given Death Sentence For His Part.

OTHERS SENTENCE

Two Others Tried and Sen tenced Already.—4 Others To Be Tried At Once.

Scottsboro, Ala., April 8 (AP)—Heywood Patterson, 17 year old Chattanooga negro, today was convicted b Jackson county jury of participatin with eight other negroes in attack on two young Huntsville white girls and was sentenced to die in the electric chair. Patterson was the thir negro sentenced to death in the attacks made while the girls wer "buming" a ride on a freight train.

Scottsboro, Ala., April 8 (AP)—Ignoring demands of the International Defense League for a change of venue for the nine negroes charged with attacking two young Huntsville girls the trial of the third negro was completed this mroning and given to the jury.

Shortly after the jury retired to deliberate the evidence against Heywood Patterson, 17, of Chattanooga, five of the remaining six negroes were placed on trial and selection of another jury began.

Those placed on trial are Olen Montgomery, 17, of Monroe, Ga., Andy Wright, 17, and Eugene Williams, 19, of Chattanooga; Willie Robertson, 17, Columbus, Ga., and Ozie Powell, 16, of Atlanta.

Major Joe Starnes of Guntersville commanding the second battalion of the 167th infantry and in charge of troops here today said the "trials have been fair and impartial and there has been no disorder."

Major Starnes made this comment on the telegram from the International Labor Defense, along with the announcement that part of the troops probably would relieved today as they were no longer necessary.

Montgomery, Ala., April 8 (AP)—Governor B. M. Miller today said he had received a copy of the telegram sent by the International Labor Defense of New York concerning the trials of nine negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., but that he was taking "no official recognition of it."

The Governor made no further comment.

LEGAL LYNCHING OF NEGROES FOR ALLEGED RAPE

[illegible]

TWO OF NINE CONVICTED WHILE MOB OF 10,000 SURROUNDED ALABAMA COURT HOUSE CHARGED WITH RAPING TWO FEMALE "HOBOES"

4-11-31

SCOTTEBORO, Ala., April 8—Two of nine Negroes charged with attacking two white feminine hoboes were under sentence of death today while the trial of a third proceeded under the shadow of the fixed bayonets and machine guns of the National Guard.

Baltimore, Md.

Charles Weems, twenty-one, of Atlanta and Clarence Norris, nineteen, of Chattanooga were convicted late yesterday. The trial of four others is scheduled to follow and the remaining two will be turned over to the juvenile authorities.

A brief demonstration started when the verdict in the two cases was announced and guardsmen ejected several persons from the court room. Upward of 10,000 persons have thronged into the city.

The attack took place March 24 on a freight car neear Stevenson, Ala., in which the two girls were "bumming" with seven white youths.

NEW YORK SUN

APR 8 - 1931

NEGROES CONVICTED

Two Must Die for Attack on Alabama White Women.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 8 (A. P.).—Two of nine Negroes charged with attacking two white feminine hoboes were under sentence of death today. while the trial of a third proceeded under the shadow of the fixed bayonets and machine guns of the National Guard.

Charlie Weems, 21 years old, of Atlanta and Clarence Norris, 19, of Chattanooga were convicted late yesterday, and the trial of four others is scheduled to follow and the remaining two will be turned over to the juvenile authorities.

Meanwhile the police were investigating a telegram signed "The International Labor Defense, New York City," which Judge C. A. Hawkins said he had received and which demanded a change of venue and a new trial of all of the Negroes.

The telegram, the Judge said, protested the "attempt at legal lynching of Negro workers on framed up charges," and added that the court would be held "personally responsible."

A brief demonstration started yesterday when the verdict in the two cases was announced and guardsmen ejected several persons from the court room. The outbreak was the first sign of disturbance since the trial started, although upward of 10,000 persons have thronged into the city.

According to State evidence, the alleged attack took place March 24 in a freight car near Stevenson, Ala., in which the two girls were "bumming" with seven white youths.

The Negroes are accused of boarding the car, throwing off five of the white boys, knocking the other two unconscious and remaining aboard with the girls until officers intercepted the train at Paint Rock. When the Negroes were first brought here a mob surrounded the jail and guardsmen were called. The Negroes were then kept in Gadsden until the trial started Monday.

NEW YORK TIMES

APR 9 - 1931

DENY NEGROES' TRIAL IS LEGAL LYNCHING

Judge, Solicitor and Defense Counsel in Alabama Case Contradict Labor Body.

MILITIA GIVE PROTECTION

Three Youths Convicted of Attack on White Girls—Juries Out in Cases of Six Others.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 8 (AP).—The trial judge, the prosecutor and defense counsel took exceptions today to charges of the International Labor Defense of New York, made in a telegram to the court, that nine Negroes being tried here for attacking two young white girls were subjected to attempts to "legally lynch" them. The telegram was sent from Huntsville, Ala., by an unknown person.

Judge J. A. Hawkins said charges that the Negroes "are not receiving a fair and impartial hearing" and that they have not had full protection are absurd.

"They were given every opportunity to provide themselves with counsel and I appointed able members of the Jackson County bar to represent them. More than 1,000 members of the Alabama National Guard have been stationed here to protect them. I personally will welcome any investigation of the trial," he said:

Militia Protect Negroes.

Solicitor H. G. Bailey called attention to the National Guard and augmented force of peace officers to preserve order and said:

"It is hardly the time for any New York defense to claim the Negroes are being railroaded. There has been no violence of any nature and no talk of lynching. The State's attorneys will make every effort to secure a conviction in each case, threats or no threats."

Speaking for the six defense attorneys, Stephen Roddy of Chattanooga said he was employed by individuals of Chattanooga interested in them, and added:

"I do not see how any one can say that we are not striving to see that the defendants are getting the fairest trial."

Heywood Patterson, 17, of Chattanooga, was convicted today of participating in the attack on the white girls and was sentenced to die in the electric chair. He was the third Negro convicted.

Two juries were locked up tonight in the case.

One considered the fate of five of the Negroes, four aged 17 and the fifth 16, for whom the death penalty was asked.

The other jury had the case of Roy Wright, 14, for whom the State agreed not to ask execution. He was placed on trial shortly after the other jury had retired. The two girls appeared for the State, and the Negro was the only defense witness. He admitted he was present but denied participating in the attack.

Governor Takes No Action.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 8 (AP).—Governor B. M. Miller said today he had received a telegram sent by the International Labor Defense of New York, protesting against the manner of trying nine Negroes at Scottsboro on charges of attacking two white girls, but he declared he would take "no official recognition of it." He made no other comment.

The, representative, Maurer declared, reported that lawyers who had declared themselves in favor of speedy execution of the Negroes had been appointed by the court to appear for the defense.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courier
Monday, April [illegible], 1931

The Danger from Meddlers

At Scottsboro, in Jackson county, Alabama, eight negroes were tried, convicted and condemned to death last week. "The evidence in these cases was astounding in clearness and corroboration," The Scottsboro Sentinel says, yet "over the country there will be many people who cannot believe this and who will insist that prejudice ruled. This is not the truth; these negroes were given every protection and every right of the law for defense; their own evidence was so conflicting that their attorneys trying their best to defend their lives were almost hopeless to aid them. Not even one intimidation of a prisoner, or guardsman, or officer was reported during the whole time from arrest to conviction. Jackson county wanted to do what was right; as a citizenry composed of people who hold inviolate its women, it offers no apologies to the rest of the country for the penalty imposed on these blacks, who, according to the evidence, would be a dangerous menace to any section of any country in the world."

That is the language of an editorial article in The Sentinel that is convincing because it is temperate. The history of the case discloses unusual self-control on the part of the people of Jackson county and should impress other Americans that they are men and women well advanced in civilization.

Already societies and organizations in Northern cities are sending protests to Alabama against the verdict. They are composed of excited persons, some of whom "mean well." More than any noisy demagogue in the South they promote lynchings. Give us time, and we Southerners will dispose of the demagogues, but when wild folk of foreign states incapable of understanding that Alabama is as sovereign in these matters as Italy is or England, interfere, the Southerners are embarrassed. These meddlers, these fools, are the allies of the Southern ruffians, the inciters of the Southern mobs.

Whether the state of Alabama in the enforcement of its laws errs or not, it is no more the business of the people of South Carolina to protest against it than it would be for them to assail the administration of justice in Czecho-Slovakia. In New York, Boston and other cities are and will continue to be people who take to themselves the right to tell American states how they shall govern themselves, but they make a lamentable mess by their performances. This republic is composed of separate states and the professional guardians of other people's morals will find it out.

The South Carolinians and the Alabamians will learn the lesson too that they are fools when they try to compel the New Yorkers and the Bostonians to conform to their moral standards.

Jackson county has given to the world an excellent example of decent administration of law.

Scottsboro, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, April 23, 1931

GREAT DEFENSE FOR 9 NEGROES

Labor Defense League Employs Attorneys and Begins Fund Raising

Today's (Thursday) Chattanooga Times says:

Another step was taken yesterday to save from the electric chair eight negroes convicted for attacking two white girls on a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., when George W. Chamlee, former attorney-general of Hamilton County, was retained as chief counsel to carry the case to the supreme court of Alabama.

Gen. Chamlee was retained through the International Labor Defense, but the attorney said that he had received requests from the nine negroes now in jail at Birmingham and from the parents of the four Chattanooga prisoners involved.

S. R. Roddy, who, along with Milo Moody, Scottsboro lawyer, defended the negroes at the trial, has been retained by the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance of Chattanooga, to help make the fight to save the lives of the condemned men.

Joseph Brodsky and Allan Traub, New York lawyers representing the International Labor Defense, made the arrangements with Gen. Chamlee, assisted by Lowell Wakefield, Southern representative of the organization, who maintains headquarters in Temple Court building.

Wakefield, in a statement given The Times last night said that the case would be taken to the supreme court of the United States if necessary, declaring that the presence of negroes on the jury was the only way to guarantee the condemned negroes their constitutional rights.

Gen. Chamlee said:

"The attorneys for the International Labor Defense, with Claude Patterson of Chattanooga, one of the defendants, brought me today a written request that I become counsel for the nine negroes tried at Scottsboro, Ala., two weeks ago.

"I have accepted this retainer and am glad to say that from my knowledge of the International Labor Defense, which has branches in all parts of the country, that it is a reliable and substantial organization, interested in defending workers, opposing fee-grabbing and assisting the poor regardless of color, nationality or creed.

"Like other organizations, sometimes it is misrepresented, and that is to be expected sometimes.

"These cases at Scottsboro ought to be appealed to the Alabama supreme court and given a retrial there.

"I know of these Chattanooga boys, and am opposed to electrocuting a boy only 14 or 15 years old and, in fact, do not believe such punishment of a mere child ever brought to the state or society any relief.

"All these boys protest their innocence, and it is my purpose to join with any one desiring to help them put up a united or joint defense, all along the way through the courts.

"The parents of al four Chattanooga defendants have been in to see me and while they are all very poor people, they have expressed their ernest appreciation of all efforts that are to be made in the fight to save their boys."

Demands Negroes On Jury

Following is the statement made by Mr. Wakefield:

"The International Labor Defense completed arrangements today with George W. Chamlee, prominent Chattanooga attorney and former attorney general, to act as chief counsel for the eight negro boys tried and sentenced to death at Scottsboro.

"Our Birmingham reprsetative again visited the boys in the Birmingham jail yesterday and they officially agreed to retain Mr. Chamlee as the International Defense attorney. The parents of the boys in Chattanooga also welcome and fully endorse our defense.

"We welcome the co-operation support of any individuals or or- zations who feel that the boy- not get a fair trial

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Anderson, S. C., [illegible]
Tuesday, [illegible] 1931

More Protests Against Execution of Negroes

MONTGOMERY, April 21—Fourteen telegrams of protest aaginst the verdicts of death for eight negroes in the attacks on two white girls near Scottsboro, Ala., today were added to Governor B. M. Miller's file on the case.

The governor to date has received 114 telegrams from organizations in nearly every state in the union, mostly branches of the International Labor defense of New York, "denouncing the frameup" and demandding immediate release of the eight condemmed men, but so far none have been answered.

In the communications on the case today was a telegram from the the Sacco-Vanzetti branch of the International Labor defense at Detroit. Like thes others it termed the cast a "frameup" and demanded immediate release of the eight sentenced to death and the 14 year old negro facing a rehearing as the result of a mistrial.

Gaffney, [illegible]
Tuesday, May 5, 1931

Appeal Planned For Condemned Negroes

Spartanburg, April 30.—Attorneys for David King and Richard Dean, negroes, convicted of murder of Haskell Hill, filling station operator here and sentenced to die in the electric chair July 3, today served notice of intention to appeal from the sentences to the supreme court.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3352

NOT GOING TO PRAY BUT TO FIGHT, SAYS MOTHER OF 2 SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Daily Worker

11-11-31

Mrs. Wright Cheered in Hoboken Mass Meet; Returning Soon to the South

New York N.Y.

HOBOKEN, Nov. 10.—Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the innocent, framed up Scottsboro boys facing electrocution in Alabama, spoke here recently and received an enthusiastic reception. The meeting, which was held under the auspices of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights was well attended. Many workers joined the L. S. N. R. and the International Labor Defense.

Mrs. Wright, who is soon returning to the South, used the meeting as an occasion to thank the militant workers, white and Negro, who have rallied to the mass fight to save the 9 boys. Mrs. Wright said:

"Dear Friends and Comrades:

"I guess you all know me. I am the mother of two of the Scottsboro boys—Andy and Roy. I am sorry that I didn't know about your wonderful organization many years ago—even twenty years ago. I didn't even know about it until after the boys were arrested. You know that you are known as 'Reds.' I didn't know what a wonderful organization and how you fight for us Negroes. I surely learned a lot here in the North.

"Last week we were up in Newark. We were going to speak in a church. And the preacher he said that he would not let us speak because we were Reds. He says to me, 'Sister, say that the N.A.A.C.P. is defending the boys.' And I says, 'No, it is a lie.' He wanted me to get up and tell a lie that the N.A.A.C.P. is defending the boys.

"I used to pray a lot in the church. All I knew was to pray. But they didn't even let us speak on the steps of the church. They say 'Get off those steps.' Yes, I used to pray a lot. One of the sisters says to me, 'Sister Wright, pray for your boys!' Yes, I used to pray. I said, 'pray?' And she says, 'Don't you know that prayers are the keys to heaven,' and I says, 'I don't know, sister, because I have never been there.'

"Prayer won't help me or the boys [illegible] would have been dead in July—but they didn't die. Why? Only because of your wonderful organization. And I want to thank you all for your help and how wonderful you have treated me. I just hate to go back to the South.

"Now I am going back to the South and I am going after some of those old preachers. They used to say to me, 'Sister, have you got a dollar for the church'? But when they ask me for a dollar now maybe they'll hear something they won't like.

"So, comrades and friends, I'm going back to the South, not to pray I'm going back to Fight! And I'm going back to my girls, and especially the boys I must see in the South.

"And I want to thank you all for how wonderful you have all been to me. And I'm going to tell all of them down in the South about your wonderful organization. The preachers never told me anything—never taught me anything. You have taught me lots. I used to believe in the church, but that is finished. I believe in you. And I'm going back to tell them about you and not to sit down and pray, but to fight."

RED APPROACH TO AMERICAN NEGRO IS DESCRIBED

Journal and Guide

Scottsboro Cases Described By Walter White In Harper's

11-28-31

NEW YORK—Carefully laid plans by the Communists to capitalize Negro discontent in America, are exposed in "The Negro and the Communists," a detailed narrative of the Scottsboro cases, written by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and published in the forthcoming December Harper's Monthly Magazine which will be on news stands November 25. Mr. White three times visited Alabama in the course of organizing the defense for the convicted boys.

The article sets forth in narrative form all the known events of the freight train ride in Alabama, during which a fight occurred between white and colored boys, and following which nine colored boys were railroaded to death sentences for alleged criminal assaults upon two white girls riding the train in men's clothing.

The mob hysteria surrounding the trial is described, and the early steps taken by N.A.A.C.P. members and member of the Chattanooga Interdenominational Ministers Alliance to furnish a stopgap defense at the first trial.

But then, says Mr. White, "with a blare of trumpets the Communists seized upon the Scottsboro convictions." The Communist program to capitalize discontent among Negroes had been outlined in resolutions in Moscow in 1928. And the resulting struggle he calls, "the most notable test of strength to date between those who seek justice for the Negro through American forms of government and those who seek to spread Communist propaganda among American Negroes."

The N.A.A.C.P. organization of the defense, including the retention of Fort, Beddow and Ray in Alabama, the state's loading criminal law firm; of Clarence Darrow, and the offer of Arthur Garfield Hays to give his services are outlined.

A Howl To Shake Prison Doors Of Kilby

Plaindealer

By Langston Hughes

If the nine Scottsboro boys die, the South ought to be ashamed of itself—but the twelve million Negroes in America ought to be more ashamed than the South. Maybe it's against the law to print the transcripts of trials in a State court. If not, every Negro paper in this country ought to immediately publish the official records of the Scottsboro cases so that both whites and blacks might see at a glance to what absurd farces an Alabama court can descend. (Or should I say an American court?)

11-6-31

The nine boys in Kilby Prison are Americans. Twelve Million Negroes are Americans, too. The judge and the jury at Scottsboro, and the governor of Alabama, are Americans. Therefore, for the sake of American justice, (if there is any), and for the honor of Southern gentlemen (if there ever were any), let the South rise up in press and pulpit, home and school, Senate chambers and Rotary Clubs, and petition the freedom of the dumb young blacks, so indiscreet as to travel, unwittingly, on the same freight train with two white prostitutes.

Topeka Kans

And let the sensible citizens of Alabama (if there are any), supply schools for the black populace of their state, (and for the half-black, too—the mulatto children of the Southern gentlemen—I reckon they're gentlemen), so the Negroes won't be so dumb again.

But back to the dark millions, black and half-black, brown and yellow, with a gang of white fore-parents—like me. Let these twelve million Negro Americans raise such a howl that the doors of Kilby Prison shake until the nine youngsters come out (and I don't mean a polite howl, either). And let the mill-owners of Huntsville stop paying women workers too little for them to afford the price of train tickets to Chattanooga. Dear Lord, I never knew until now that white ladies (the color of southern gentlemen) traveled in freight trains!—Did you, world.—And whoever heard of raping a prostitute?"

Scottsboro Cases Up on January 18

Amsterdam News

12-16-31

White Claims Court Has Rejected Petitions of "Red" Lawyer

New York N.Y.

Conflicting statements issued this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the International Labor Day Defense claim that the eight Scottsboro boys will be represented exclusively by the respective organizations when the now internationally famous case will be argued before Supreme Court of Alabama on Jan. 18.

Returning from Birmingham Friday, where he was in conference with the law firm of Fort, Beddow and Ray, Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., announced that the bills of exceptions filed by his organization have been certified to the Alabama Supreme Court; that the bills presented by George W. Chamlee, attorney for the I. L. D., were not approved, the judge ruling that they were defective and that Chamlee was not an attorney of record; and that the N. A. A. C. P. has retained Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hayes to associate with the Birmingham attorneys in the defense.

George Maurer, secretary of the I. L. D., denied Monday that Chamlee had been ruled out of the case and accused the N. A. A. C. P. of "issuing a stream of falsehoods and distortions aaginst the I. L. D." His organiaztion, Maurer declared, "is in the Scottsboro case—as it has been from the beginning, before the N. A. A. C. P. dared to take a stand—with both feet. It intends to remain in the case. By the wishes of all the boys and all their parents and nearest of kin, the I. L. D. will argue the appeal."

SCOTTSBORO DEFENSE EXCLUDES COMMUNISTS

Reporter

NEW YORK, Dec. 17—Returned from a conference in Birmingham with Roderick Beddow, of Fort, Beddow and Ray, leading attorneys retained to defend the eight condemned boys in the Scottsboro case, Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, reports the following developments:

1. The bills of exceptions filed by the N. A. A. C. P. have been certified to the Supreme Court of the State of Alabama.

12-19-31

2. The bills of exceptions presented by George W. Chamlee, attorney for the I. L. D., were not approved. Mr. Chamlee demanded and received opportunity to argue for the certification of his bills, but his argument was not successful. The judge ruled against them on two grounds, because they were defective and because Mr. Chamlee was not an attorney of record in th case.

3. Argument before the Alabama Supreme Court will be had on January 18, and prior to that time there will be a conference in Birmingham, participated in by the attorneys retained by the N. A. A. C. P.—Messrs. Roderick Beddow, Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays. Mr. White will go to Birmingham to be present at the conference.

Reporter 12-19-31 Cleveland

No steps will be omitted to procure he very best possible defense of the boys, said Mr. White, who urged that he public send contributions promptly oward the expenses of the approaching. legal battle.

ALABAMA JUDGE CERTIFIES NAACP BILLS IN SCOTTSBORO

Kansas City Call

12-18-31 Kansas City

NEW YORK — Returned from a conference in Birmingham with Roderick Beddow of Fort, Beddow and Ray, leading attorneys retained to defend the eight condemned boys in the Scottsboro case, Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, reports the following developments:

1. The bills of exceptions filed by the NAACP have been certified to the Supreme court of the state of Alabama.

2. The bills of exceptions presented by George W. Chamlee, attorney for the ILD were not approved. Mr. Chamlee demanded and received opportunity to argue for the certification of his bills but his argument was not successful. The judge ruled against them on two grounds: because Mr. Chamlee was not an attorney of record in the case.

3. Argument before the Alabama supreme court will be had on January 18, and prior to that time there will be a conference in Birmingham, participated in by the attorneys retained by the NAACP, Messrs. Roderick Beddow, Clarence Darrow, and Arthur Garfield Hays. Mr. White will go to Birmingham to be present at the conference.

No steps will be omitted to procure the very best possible defense of the boys, said Mr. White, who urged that the public send contributions promptly toward the expenses of the approaching legal battle.

DARROW TO AID [illegible]ROES

[illegible] 12-28-31 [illegible], Ala.

BIR[illegible]INGHAM, Ala., [illegible] Claren[illegible] Arthur Garfield Hay[illegible] of New York, announ[illegible] here [illegible] will appear before the Alabama supreme court on an. 18 in defe[illegible] eight Neg[illegible] sentences in conn[illegible] with attacks on two white girls near Scottsboro, Ala., March 25.

SCOTTSBORO BOY'S LETTER SHOWS WHAT YOU CAN DO

Daily Worker 12-1-31

An indication of what the eight Negro boys, framed up for the electric chair in Scottsboro, Alabama, need in the way of daily comforts during the grim months of waiting, is seen from this letter from one of them to Mrs. Norris, mother of another of the condemned boys. The International Labor Defense has besides providing legal defense and organizing mass movements to free workers prisoners, the task of providing whatever can be done for the men while in prison and the task of feeding their families outside. Not only in the Scottsboro case but in hundreds of other cases. The address of the ILD is 80 East 11 St. New York City. Following is the letter n Andy Wright to Mrs. Norris:

Kilby Prison,
Montromery, Ala.

Dear Friend:

I am well and hope you are the same. I am asking you for a little favor, if you will please. I am asking you to send me some cigaretts and stamps, if you will.

Please write and let me know if you are going to send them or not, so I will not be looking for them. I appreciate the kindness you are doing for us boys. I hope you all will be able to free us boys some day. I wish you would send them cigarettes and stamps right away. Please I am out of them, and this is my last stamp, and no cigarettes at all. I believe you will send me some.

I will close, looking for answer soon.

Andy Wright

P. S. Answer.

NOTED LAWYER WILL GIVE HIS SERVICES FREE

Journal and Guide 12-31-31 Norfolk, Va.

Joins Clarence Darrow To Defend Alabama Victims

NEW YORK— Arthur Garfield Hays, one of the celebrated liberal attorneys of the country, has volunteered to enter the Scottsboro cases as associate counsel, giving his services without charge to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the defense of the 8 boys sentenced to death.

Mr. Hays will act with Clarence Darrow, with whom he has served as associate in many epoch-making legal battles, including the famous evolution trial in Tennessee.

In the celebrated Sweet case in Detroit, where the N. A. A. C. P. successfully championed a colored man's right to defend his home from mob segregation, Mr. Hays served with Mr Darrow and the other counsel retained by the Association.

Mr. Hays, who is white, is the author of "Let Freedom Ring," a book telling of celebrated cases which involve the issue of civil liberty. He is one of the counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union.

With Mr. Hays in the Scotsboro case the Association will have one of the most formidable arrays of counsel that could be obtained to defend the victims of Alabama race prejudice.

Darrow May Not Serve

Tribune 12-31-31

In Defense of the Scottsboro Boys

Savannah, Ga

BECAUSE DIFFERENCES

Arrise As to Which Attorney is in Charge

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 29—Clarence Darrow's refusal to associate himself with the International Labor Defense today dimmed prospects of him coming to the defense of eight Scottsboro Negroes under death sentences for attacks on two white girls.

Representatives of the International Labor Defense, in turn, said they would not permit him to enter the case as an attorney employed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but would welcome his aid if he appeared independent of the association.

Arthur Garfield Hays of New York likewise employed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to argue motions for new trials before the Alabama Supreme Court January 21 joined Darrow in saying they would consider acting independent of the association if the other attorneys would sever their connections with the International Labor Defense.

The reply to that challenge was "impossible," and forthwith Mr. Darrow betook himself back to Chicago, saying he would not consider entering the case in any way so long as a Communist organization had a hand in it.

"We regret that after a long conference, no agreement was reached with Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hayes" said Lowell Wakefield, a representative of the International Labor Defense.

"We have no interest greater than saving from the electric chair these eight innocent Negro boys. We therefore cannot consider the entrance into this case of any organization such as the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, whose leaders are given solely to obstruction and attacks on the defense.

"With regard to Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays, we asked them to sever their connection with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in this case and work with us in a united effort to free the Scottsboro boys. We regret that after a long conference no agreement was reached on this basis."

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3353

Birmingham, Ala. News
Wednesday, June 10, 1931

Trial Of Negroes In Jackson County Shown Not Affected By Cheers. Bands

J. F. ROTHERMEL

Did the nine negroes get a fair trial at Scottsboro on the charge of attacking two white girls? This is the question for consideration in this, the fourth article of a series about the cases now under considerable fire in some circles.

In previous articles the circumstances of the arrest and incidents indicating the public state of mind during the 12 days between the arrest and the trial were discussed. This article concerns the trial itself.

When the trial was called at the special session of the Jackson Circuit Court, a change of venue was sought by defense attorneys. In substantiation of their motion there were offered newspaper articles and the fact that a large number of troops surrounded the courthouse in proof of the prejudice and danger to the lawful rights of the defendants.

Judge A. E. Hawkins denied this motion for a change of venue and also for a new trial. Judge Hawkins it may be said in passing, has a reputation in the district for fair dealing. This is his first term in office.

There was present at the trial a detachment of national guard troops. In charge was Maj. Joe Starnes, of Guntersville. He had under him 11 officers and 107 enlisted men. In addition to rifles and pistols, the guardsmen had tear bombs and machine guns. The latter were mounted at strategic points about the courthouse and leading to the courtroom.

"I asked for the guards," said Sheriff M. L. Wann, "for protection for the negroes after threatening talk had been heard the first night after their arrest. I am not sure the troops were necessary, but I wanted to be on the safe side."

The troops were called into service only after the sheriff had consulted with the solicitor and other officials.

The guardsmen had their headquarters in the Scottsboro City Hall Building on a corner of one of the blocks surrounding the courthouse square. During the trial most of the guards were on duty in and around

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Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
Friday, June 5, 1931

MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL OF EIGHT BLACKS DELAYED

Attorneys Allowed 10 Days To Prepare Briefs In Attack Cases

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., June 5—(AP)—Motion for new trials for eight negroes condemned to die for attacking two white girls on a freight train near here several weeks ago was delayed today when Judge A. E. Hawkins allowed defense and prosecuting attorneys 10 days in which to prepare additional briefs.

Joseph R. Brodsky, New York attorney, appeared with statements signed by the negroes in which he was authorized with George W. Chamblee, of Chattanooga, to act as their counsel. Brodsky told the court he had been warned by residents here to "get out of town and stay out."

Affidavits were filed by the defense attorneys in which the character of the girls was attacked and others were filed by John K. Thompson, circuit solicitor, denying the allegations.

The affidavits filed by Thompson were signed by officials of the cotton mills at Huntsville in which one of the girls formerly was employed.

Brodsky said he and Chamblee had been retained by the interracial labor defense league to represent the negroes and another attorney, Stephen F. Roddy, of Chattanooga, said he had been employed by the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Chattanooga.

The negroes were convicted in Jackson Circuit Court here and sentenced to die July 10 in the electric chair at Kilby prison, state penitentiary at Montgomery, where they are now held. They were charged with attacking the girls after throwing five white companions off the train and holding two others at bay with pistols.

ERIE, PA.
TIMES
JUN 12 1931

Mob Rule or Justice?

EIGHT young Negroes in Alabama are under sentence to die.

The eight, together with a ninth only 14 years old whose case resulted in a mistrial when one juror held out against the death penalty, were arrested on a freight train passing through Alabama. On the same train were two white girls dressed in men's clothes. The Negroes were charged with having attacked the girls.

During the trial of the nine at Scottsboro, Ala., the passions of the community became so violent that armed soldiers from the Alabama National Guard patrolled the streets. A menacing crowd gathered about the courthouse waiting for the verdict.

Do such conditions assure justice?

Do they even permit justice in sections where for a Negro to be alone with a white woman is to a large part of the white population presumptive evidence of assault?

These questions are being raised by the Civil Liberties Union, the International Labor Defense, the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, representing American liberals like Theodore Dreiser, Lincoln Steffens, Waldo Frank, Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes. They were urged last week in New York to demand a new trial for these Negroes.

When the retrial petition was presented to the judge at Scottsboro last Friday, Joseph R. Brodsky, of New York, counsel for the Negroes, told the court he had been warned by Scottsboro residents to "get out of town and stay out." Affidavits and counter-affidavits have been filed, among the former one to the effect that the two girls in the case were of "loose character" and had earlier associated with Negroes. The judge has allowed ten days for filing further affidavits and briefs.

In the interest of calm justice there should be a new trial for these Negroes.

It should be held in a new place, where local passions cannot seethe around the courthouse. Change the venue.

Nowhere in the United States should any man's life, least of all a Negro's, have to depend upon a verdict reached within or almost within earshot of an angry mob that has already condemned him to death.

We have had too much of that. No state can be proud of it.

Justice and the whole jury system demand that some way be sought to end it.

JUSTICE IN ALABAMA.

Age 6-27-31
New York N.Y.

The conditions under which eight young Negroes in Alabama were condemned to death upon a charge of criminal assault have created widespread protest and demands for a new trial. The trial of the nine, originally charged with attacking two white girls on a freight train, took place at Scottsboro, while a menacing crowd hung around the court house and armed soldiers patrolled the streets. The passions of the community reached so ferocious a stage that only the prompt announcement of a verdict of guilty averted a lynching. To the question, "Do such conditions assure justice?" the New York World-Telegram and other Northern papers, as well as organizations and individuals, have demurred. It is asked if such conditions even permit justice.

The Birmingham Reporter, a Negro weekly published in Alabama, in referring to the wide discussion provoked by this case, seeks to get at the root of the matter by questioning if the evidence justified such a verdict as that rendered in this case. In answer to the question as to whether the eight Negroes got a fair trial in Jackson county, Alabama, the editor of the Reporter said with perhaps dangerous ambiguity: "We venture the assertion that they did get as fair a trial as the circumstances permitted, and as customs and policies would allow. This statement does not in any sense say that these boys had a fair trial under the law, or that it was possible that they could have had a fair trial in Jackson county, Alabama."

The chances for a new trial in Alabama that would bring out the facts in the case and establish whether there was any crime committed or not do not seem to be promising. When the petition for such a re-trial was presented to the judge at Scottsboro, Joseph R. Brodsky, one of the counsel from New York, told the court that he had been warned by residents of Scottsboro to "get out of town and stay out." Affidavits and counter-affidavits were filed, among the former one to the effect that the girls in the case were of "loose character" and had earlier associated with Negroes.

Even if these affidavits were true, it is doubtful if they would do any good to the unfortunate eight condemned to death. The charge of "rape" alleged against them was merely the equivalent to the charge of "associating with white women," which is of equal if not greater guilt in the eyes of Southern white men. As a result of this fixation of Southern white males, one writer was forced to conclude that the "only people who are free in the South are the Southern white man and the Negro woman." White women in the South are beginning to resent this systematic attempt to keep them in a sort of moral servitude and use them as a pretext for the killing of black men.

Even with the granting of a new trial it will remain doubtful whether a jury can be obtained in any part of Alabama, the members of which would be able to divest themselves of race prejudice and hear and sift the evidence in these cases, without prejudging the accused as "guilty of associating with white women."

New Trial For Negroes Denied At Scottsboro

Advertiser

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., June 23—(AP)—Judge A. E. Hawkins late yesterday denied a motion for a new trial for the eight negroes now in Kilby Prison at Montgomery awaiting execution of death sentences imposed for attacking two young girls who were "hoboing their way home" on a freight train.

6-24-31

Attorneys for the negroes immediately filed notice of an appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court which automatically stays the execution of sentence on July 10.

Montgomery Ala

The negroes were convicted by juries in trial here early in April, after the attacks on March 24. A mistrial was declared for the ninth negro, a boy 14, after a jury was unable to agree on a sentence.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Times
Sunday, June 7, 1931

SCOTTSBORO QUIET DURING TRIAL PLEA

Citizens Content to Allow Law to Take Course.

Demeanor of Spectators Denies Reports Lawyers Need Bodyguards.

Chattanooga Times Special.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., June 6.—Contrary to reports that Scottsboro was full of excitement Friday when a hearing was scheduled for motions for new trials for nine Negroes convicted of criminal assault on two white girls, and that Joseph R. Broadsky, New York defense attorney, was warned to leave town, Scottsboro was quiet and peaceful.

Despite the fact that propaganda has been broadcast over the nation about Alabama officials in general, and Scottsboro and Jackson county in particular, the citizenship has been content to let the law take its course.

After the brief session of court adjourned Friday, Defense Attorneys Steve R. Roddy and G. W. Chamlee, of Chattanooga; Milo V. Moody, Sr., of Scottsboro, and Joseph R. Broadsky, of New York, were surrounded by fifteen or twenty spectators and three newspaper reporters. It is said that at this time a man leaving the courtroom remarked that "the New York attorney had finished his business and would soon be on his way." It is thought that this remark was the spark that kindled the fire of excitement reported.

The citizenship of the town was somewhat amused that attorneys for the defendants came to court with bodyguards as was the case Friday.

During the hearing the courtroom was comfortably filled, but upon adjournment the crowd moved quietly out with the exception of a few who remained through curiosity when reporters were interviewing defense attorneys.

DOOMED NEGROES' CAUSE UPHELD BY NEW YORKERS

NEW YORK, June 6 (AP).—Two hundred and fifty persons today attended an open air meeting to protest against carrying out the death sentence given eight Negro youths at Scottsboro, Ala. The Negroes were convicted of attacking two white girls.

The meeting was arranged by the International Labor Defense. Many banners protesting against race discrimination and the plight of the Scottsboro Negroes were in evidence. The crowd listened to several speakers and then held a parade.

Abraham Skolnick, 27, was arrested charged with soliciting funds without a permit. Police found that the box he had been carrying, labeled "The Jewish Colonization of Soviet Russia," contained less than $2.

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8 ALABAMA NEGROES DENIED SECOND TRIAL

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., June 23.—(AP)—Judge A. E. Hawkins late yesterday denied a motion for a new trial for the eight negroes now in Kilby prison at Montgomery awaiting execution of death sentences imposed for attacking two young girls who were "hoboing their way home" on a freight train.

Atlanta, Ga

Attorneys for the negroes immediately filed notice of an appeal to the Alabama supreme court which automatically stays the execution of sentence on July 10.

The negroes were convicted by juries in trial here early in April, after the attacks on March 24. A mistrial was declared for the ninth negro, a boy 14, after a jury was unable to agree on a sentence.

Talladega, Ala., Home
Friday, June 12, 1931

As a result of lurid statements made about the trial of the eight negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., German youths at Dresden staged a demonstration against the American consulate. We imagine they know little about the true facts in the case and care less, but it gave them an opportunity to blow off.

GROUP URGES RELEASE OF CONVICTED NEGROES

Constitution

6-28-31
Atlanta, Ga.

NEW YORK, June 27—(AP)—A mass meeting in Harlem today heard speakers advocate the release of eight negroes facing execution in Montgomery, Ala., for an attack on two white girls, decry Premier Mussolini's policies in Italy, and praise the soviet five-year plan.

The meeting followed a parade of about 5,000 persons.

The marchers carried placards reading: "Death to Lynchers," "Smash the Color Line," "Equality to All" and "Smash the Boss Terror," as well as caricatures of Judge Hawkins, who refused a new trial to the negroes under sentence of death.

In the procession were 300 young pioneers, a communist organization, and several hundred opponents of fascism, who shouted, "Down with Mussolini!" between selections by the band.

The demonstration was policed by 120 policemen who had been instructed not to molest the demonstrators unless there was disorder.

NEW YORK TIMES
JUN 28 1931

PROTEST CONVICTION OF ALABAMA NEGROES

Mixed Crowd in Harlem Parades and Speaks Against Death Sentence for Eight.

A crowd of about 1,500 persons paraded in Harlem yesterday as a protest against the death sentence on eight Negroes convicted in Scottsboro, Ala., of attacking two white girls. The crowd was a mixed one of Negroes and whites, with many foreign-born. The parade wound for several hours through Harlem streets, ending at 147th Street and Lenox Avenue, where speeches were made.

The police informed the leaders, representing the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, that the demonstration would have to break up in good order at an early hour. Shortly after 6 P. M. sixty patrolmen with night-sticks paraded past the meeting place. This had the desired effect and the meeting ended an hour later.

So many placards were carried by the crowd that it required two trucks to remove them. They bore such legends as "Smash the legal lynching of the Scottsboro boys," "Death to lynchers," and "Defend the Soviet Union." In the early part of the parade some who apparently regarded the affair less seriously appeared with a banner reading "Work and pray, live on hay, you'll eat pie in the sky when you die."

The speakers said that their past demonstrations had been "attacked like gunmen by Commissioner Mulrooney's men because they had defied the laws of Alabama." They also criticized President Hoover and the government in general.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUN 30 1931

PROTEST FOR NEGROES.

Boston Meeting on Behalf of Eight in Alabama Broken Up.

BOSTON, June 29 (AP).—A protest meeting in behalf of eight Negro youths sentenced to death in Scottsboro, Ala., for alleged assault on two white girls terminated in police action tonight when a group of hecklers, who, police said, were Communists, shouted demands at the speakers.

The meeting was almost over when the hecklers arose and shouted questions. Butler R. Wilson, president of the Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, refused to recognize their demands and said the meeting was closed.

The hecklers were insistent and police rushed down the aisles and escorted some of them to side rooms. An extra police detail was summoned but no arrests were made.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 8 1931

PROTEST DEATH SENTENCES

Cuba Tobacco Workers Take Stand Against Alabama Executions.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAVANA, July 7.—A protest against the execution of eight Negroes at Scottsboro, Ala., condemned to die on Friday of this week, will be made to the United States Consul at Santiago, according to a resolution adopted this afternoon by the Tobacco Workers Union of Santiago. The resolution reads:

"We protest against the proposed electrocution of eight young Negroes at Scottsboro by United States imperialistic murderers and regard this massacre as an instance of Yankee capitalistic oppression of Negroes of the United States. We protest this proposed mass murder. We pledge ourselves to combat race discrimination and fight for equal rights for Negroes. We demand punishment for the lynchers."

Indignation over the death sentences characterized the meeting, but no public demonstrations are anticipated.

The protest will not be accepted by the American Consul, it was officially stated here tonight, because any representation to the American Government must be made through Cuban diplomatic channels at Washington.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3354

Two Sets Of Attorneys Fight For Scottsboro Blacks; Knight For State

Advertiser 12-29-31

Atty. Gen. Knight will personally, and without assistance by other counsel, represent the State, when the appeals of the eight negroes, convicted and sentenced to death for criminally assaulting two young white girls near Scottsboro last Spring, are finally submitted to the Supreme Court of Alabama, Jan. 21.

Montgomery, Ala

In the meantime there appears to be some doubt as to the complete personnel of the array of legal talent that will represent the defendants before the State's highest tribunal. Yesterday G. W. Chamblee, Sr., of Chattanooga, Tenn., filed a certificate of employment to defend the condemned negroes, in the office of the clerk of the high court, stating he would have associated with him, his son, G. W. Chamblee, Jr.; also Joseph R. Brodsky, Allen Taub and Irving Schwob, of New York. The certificate had attached to it statements testifying to his employment as counsel by each of the negro defendants.

When this certificate was filed, Clarence Darrow, of Chicago, and Arthur Garfield Hays, of New York, widely known criminal lawyers, were in Birmingham making preparations to defend the same eight negroes, for which duty they announced they had been employed by the Society for Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Chamblee was to meet Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays in Birmingham last night for a conference, Mr. Chamblee being accompanied by representatives of the International Labor Defense of New York. Before leaving for Birmingham, the Chattanooga attorney conferred with the eight negro defendants at Kilby Prison.

In a statement for the International Labor Defense, Lowell Wakefield, of New York, was quoted yesterday as saying that the entrance into the case of Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays would be welcomed, but that in view of the statement issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the International Labor Defense felt it was impossible for that organization or the defendants to permit the participation of any lawyer representing the Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Advertiser

In addition to this statement, Mr. Wakefield also made public a telegram which he said the negro defendants had forwarded to Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hayes in Birmingham, stating Mr. Chamblee and other lawyers had been employed to defend them, that they did not want Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays to fight the International Labor Defense and make trouble for Mr. Chamblee just to help the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and asking that they help the International Labor Defense and Mr. Chamblee.

12-29-31

Yesterday the completed record in the cases of Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson, Andy Wright, Olen Montgomery, and Eugene Williams, five of the eight negro defendants, was delivered at the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court. Record in the cases of the other three, Charlie Weems, Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, has not yet been completed, but is expected to be filed by the first of the new year.

DARROW NOT NAMED IN NEGROES' DEFENSE

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga

Five Others Listed To Aid Appeal for Eight in Assault Case.

12-29-31

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—The names of Clarence Darrow, of Chicago, and Arthur Garfield Hays, of New York, were not included in a list of five attorneys filed with the Alabama supreme court late today as representing the eight young negroes now appealing a death sentence imposed at Scottsboro, Ala., for an attack on two white girls.

George Chamlee Sr., attorney, of Chattanooga, Tenn., who filed the list, said he and representatives of the International Labor Defense of New York were to meet Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays in Birmingham tonight for a conference.

Speaking for the International Labor Defense, Lowell Wakefield said entrance of Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays would be welcomed, but in view of statements issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, "we feel it is impossible for us or for the defendants to permit the entrance of any attorney representing that organization."

The list filed by Mr. Chamlee included his son, George W. Chamlee Jr., and Joseph R. Brodsky, Allen Taub and Irving Schwob, all of New York. The list was accompanied by a statement signed by the eight defendants and their parents or nearest living relative that these five attorneys had been employed to defend them.

Mr. Chamlee conferred with the negroes in death row at Kilby prison today and said they were being well treated pending final disposition of their cases.

Wakefield also made public a copy of a telegram signed by the eight negroes which he said they sent to Darrow and Hays in Birmingham asking their help and setting forth that Chamlee "and some other lawyers" had been employed by them and their relatives to defend them.

The telegram also said:

"We do not want you to come and fight the ILD (International Labor Defense) and make trouble for Mr. Chamlee just to help the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples). If you want to save us and to help us get a new trial. Please help the ILD and Mr. Chamlee."

Meanwhile Thomas E. Knight Jr., attorney general, announced that he would personally appear for the state when the case is called before the supreme court. The division in which Scottsboro is included will be called Monday, January 18, and the criminal cases will be heard on Thursday, January 21..

DARROW AND HAYS 'FIRED' FROM CASE

Advertiser

Celebrated Lawyers Abandon Scottsboro Defense In Dispute With 'Reds'

12-30-31

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 29.—(AP)—Possibility that Clarence Darrow would argue the cases of eight condemned negroes before the Alabama Supreme Court faded today when he declined to associate himself with the International Labor Defense in the case.

Representatives of the organization with whom Darrow conferred, in turn said they would not permit him to enter the case as representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Montgomery, Ala

Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays, of New York, two of the country's foremost lawyers, were employed by the N. A. A. C. P. to represent the negroes when arguments in support of their appeals are presented the Supreme Court Jan. 21.

Before leaving today for Chicago Darrow said he would not consider entering the case in any connection with any communist organization. Hays said if the I. L. D. attorneys would drop their connections he and Darrow would consider doing the same, but the reply was that this was "impossible."

"We regret that after a long conference no agreement was reached with Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays," Lowell Wakefield, I. L. D. representative said.

"We have no interest greater than saving from the electric chair these eight innocent negro boys. We, the defendants and their parents, therefore cannot consider the entrance into this case of any organization such as the N. A. A. C. P. whose leaders are given solely to obstruction and attacks on the defense.

"With regard to Mr. Darrow and Mr Hays we asked them to sever their connection with the N. A. A. C. P., in this case and work with us in a united effort to free the Scottsboro boys. We regret that after a long conference no agreement was reached on this basis."

George M. Chamblee, of Chattanooga who has been employed as chief of defense counsel by the I. L. D., said:

"The defendants and their parents together with the International Labor Defense have retained me as counsel. Although I have several assistants, such as my son, and Messrs. Schwob, Brodsky and Taub, of New York, and would welcome the entrance of any reputable attorney on the basis of complete cooperation, I feel I cannot break the faith with my clients to the extent of inviting the cooperation of anyone who entered the case as the representative of the N. A. A. C. P. This position is in keeping with the demands of the boys, their parents and next of kin."

Darrow said "we entered the case on humanitarian principles and not to further any political cause." At one time during the conference when Chamblee was laying down the terms under which they would be accepted as associates in the case, Darrow turned to Hays and said:

"Arthur, we are being fired."

The negroes were convicted in circuit court at Scottsboro, Ala., for attacking two young white girls on a freight train as they were making their way to their homes at Huntsville. They said they had been to Chattanooga in search of work.

National guardsmen were called out to protect the negroes while they were held in the Scottsboro jail and patrolled the courthouse during the trials. The negroes are in the death house at the State prison, Montgomery, pending action on their appeals for new trials.

Record in the cases of Charlie Weems and Clarence Norris, two of the eight negroes sentenced to death for criminally assaulting two white girls near Scottsboro last Spring and whose appeals are now pending in the Alabama Supreme Court, was filed yesterday in the office of the clerk of the court.

Records In Cases Of Two Filed With Court

The record in the case of five other co-defendants was presented at the clerk's office Monday. There now remains only one other record to be filed in these cases, that in the case of Haywood Patterson. This is now in course of preparation, and is expected to be ready by the first of the new year.

No additional names of counsel employed to represent the negroes on final submission of the appeals on Jan. 21, were submitted in the office of the clerk of the high court yesterday. Monday, the names of G. W. Chamblee and G. W. Chamblee, Jr., of Chattanooga, Tenn., and J. R. Brodsky, Allen Taub and Irving Schwob of New York, were certified to the court as the attorneys whose services had been retained on behalf of the eight condemned men.

DARROW'S MASTERLY COUP

Advertiser

Probably no more skilful strategic move in the course of his long and successful legal career has been made by Clarence Darrow than his announcement in Birmingham' yesterday that he would refuse to represent the eight "Scottsboro negroes" in their appeal before the Alabama Supreme Court if he and his associate, Arthur Garfield Hays, were forced to work in conjunction with attorneys representing the International Labor Defense.

Montgomery, Ala

All along the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been complaining of an unwarranted meddling by a Communist element in the affair of the Negroes, condemned to die for an attack on two white girls. The presence of this wouldbe ally, of revolutionary associations, has for months been a thorn in the flesh for the prosperous Association which largely owes its sinews of war to conservative, maybe ultra-conservative, Northerners. It is quite understandable that Mr. Darrow, employed by this Association, along with Mr. Hays, should deliver an ultimatum to this discordant factor in the Scottsboro defense.

12-31-31

Probably Mr. Darrow will not be ill-pleased should his ultimatum fail and the International Labor Defense be left to do what remains of the fighting.

An appearance before the Alabama Supreme Court on behalf of the condemned Negroes would be a role in which Mr. Darrow is unfamiliar to the American public and one in which possibly the peculiar Darrow talents would not shine so brilliantly as on other occasions. It is quite one thing to argue a cause celebre before a jury or even a trial judge where flights of oratory, not unadorned by expressions of lofty humanitarian sentiment, are not likely to be called out of order, and another thing to present an appeal before the High Justices of this or any other American commonwealth. A supreme court is concerned, if you will, with only the dry technicalities of the law, and its floor is no rostrum from which an eloquent barrister may delight an unseen audience with flights of glittering sentiment. Here sounding periods in favor of liberty, of mercy, of championship for an oppressed section of humanity must perforce give way to hair-splitting distinctions drawn from the musty tomes of Kent and Chitty

It is far from our intention to sugges that Mr. Darrow is not a master of thi branch of the work of the advocate, n less than of the harangue to the jury. Bu it is impossible to expect the populace t go enthusiastic over a word-battle betwee attorneys on some moot point on the ad missibility of evidence. The loss of hi case before the Alabama Supreme Cour would not be a pleasant thing for Mr. Dar row to face as his eminent legal career i necessarily drawing to a close. And a victory would be, literally in the language of the prize-ring, "a win on a technicality." Also a victory on some abstruse and recondite point of the law would be as little understood and appreciated by Mr. Darrow's public as the master-move of a chess champion.

Darrow And Hays Will Defend

Advertiser * * 12-28-31 * *

Noted Attorneys To Plead Before Supreme Court

* Montgomery, Ala. *

Eight Scottsboro Negroes Here

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Clarence Darrow, of Chicago, and Arthur Garfield Hays, of New York, announced here today that they will appear before the Alabama Supreme Court on Jan. 18 in defense of eight negroes under death sentences in connection with attacks on two white girls near Scottsboro, Ala., March 25.

Darrow and Hays were here to confer with Birmingham attorneys with reference to the case and said they would spend one or two days in the State checking up on facts with reference to trial of the negroes.

The two lawyers said that if an appeal to the Supreme Court for a new trial is successful they will represent the eight men at the new hearing.

The eight negroes are being held at Kilby Prison in Montgomery for safekeeping pending action of the Supreme Court on their plea for a new trial.

Darrow and Hays did not say whether they would confer with the negroes during their present visit.

Since sentencing of the negroes, hundreds of protests against their conviction have been received by Gov. B. M. Miller, the protests coming from all parts of the United States and from several foreign nations, including Germany, England, France, Switzerland, Canada and Cuba.

Darrow and Hays said they have been retained by the Society for The Advancement of Colored People. Other agencies which have interested themselves in the case include the International Labor Defense League which has retained George Chamblee, of Chattanooga, former attorney-general of Hamilton County, Tenn.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

DEC 30 1931

Darrow and Hays Retire As Counsel for 8 Negroes

Lawyers Refuse to Associate With Communist Defense

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 29 (AP).—Clarence Darrow's refusal to associate himself with the International Labor Defense today dimmed prospects of his coming to the defense of eight Scottsboro Negroes under death sentences for attacks on two white girls.

Representatives of the International Labor Defense, in turn, said they would not permit him to enter the case as an attorney employed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but would welcome his aid if he appeared independently of the association.

Arthur Garfield Hays, of New York likewise employed by the Colored People's Association to argue motions for new trials before the Alabama Supreme Court on January 21, joined Darrow in saying they would consider acting independently of the association if the other attorneys would sever their connections with the International Labor Defense.

The reply to that challenge was "impossible," and forthwith Mr. Darrow betook himself back to Chicago, saying he would not consider entering the case in any way so long as a Communist organization had a hand in it.

NEW YORK TIMES

DEC 30 1931

Darrow Drops Fight to Save Eight Negroes, Refusing to Enter Case With Communists

Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 29.—After a disagreement over wh would conduct the fight Jan. 21 in the Alabama Supreme Court for new trials for eight Negroes under death sentence for alleged attacks on two white girls, Clarence Darrow left at noon today for Chicago and Arthur Garfield Hays will leave tonight for New Orleans.

They had conferred last night and today with George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, Tenn., and associates. Mr. Chamlee was retained by the International Labor Defense and Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Before leaving Mr. Darrow declared he would not consider entering the case in any connection with any Communist organization and Mr. Hays expressed himself similarly. Mr. Hays indicated, however, that he and Mr. Darrow might be willing to drop their connections with the National Association for Advancement of Colored People if the other attorneys would make a corresponding concession.

The International Labor Defense counsel said this would be impossible and that Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays will not participate in the Scottsboro trials unless some agreement is made without concession on the part of the labor representatives.

Five attorneys retained by the Communist body filed their names with the Supreme Court at Montgomery yesterday as attorneys for the Negroes and then returned here to resume their effort to get Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays to agree to become associate counsel. The conferences ended when Mr. Darrow left.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3355

N. A. A. C. P. Leads Fight to Save Boys

Call and Post

5-9-31

Regards Scottsboro Case as Legal Lynching — Association to Seek Executive Aid

Cleveland Ohio

Say 9 Boys Raped 2 Girls — Girls Deny it But Prosecutor Thinks They'd Be Good Examples Anyway — 8 Sentenced to Death 4 Days after Arrest

Characterized as America's legal lynching, nine Negro boys down at Scottszoro, Alabama, are sitting in the shadow of the death chair awaiting execution for what the plantation owners of that section have represented as the crime of rape. The boys whose ages range from fourteen to twenty years are charged with assaulting two white girls on a freight train after a supposed fight with some white boys.

Mad, bloodthirsty, and possessed of the villany of ten thousand demons, Alabama's individual Negro justice (?) machinery roared into action. Four days after these nine bays were taken into custody the blindf[illegible] lady holding the off-balanced scales had indicted, [illegible] and convicted eight of these nine lads and sentenced them to death in the electric chair.

In an effort to stay the execution of the boys and to obtain for them a fair trial the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is making a gallant fight thruout the length and breadth of the nation to bring about executive consideration.

The Association's efforts are being strongly supported by the struggle for Negro Rights League, various women's clubs, churches and other organizations everywhere. A complete account of the case follows:

Willie Robinson, a 17 year old working class boy from Atlanta, Ga., got into a box car on a freight train leaving Chattanooga in the morning of Wednesday, March 25th, on his way to Memphis, and he was in this empty box car until taken off of the train by an ormed mob at Paint Rock, Ala. He never saw the girls nor the white boys nor any of the other Negro boys, but was by himself all the way.

Clarence Norris and Charlie Weems got on a freight car tied with cross ties just as the train was pulling out of Chattanooga. They were in this car until taken off at Paint Rock. Their car was near the end of the 49-car freight train. They noticed several others on the train, including six or seven white boys on one end of the first cars, but they saw no fight there and no attack.

Olan Montgomery of Monroe, Ga., had been staying with a cousin in Chattanooga and he caught this freight train to go to a free clinic in Memphis and be treated for serious eye trouble. He got on an oil tank car and remained there until he was taken off by the armed mob.

Ozzie Powell was also riding by himself, and knew nothing of the whole affair of the holdup of the train by the white mob.

The four boys from Chattanooga, Roy Wright, 14, and his older brother Andy, were riding with Heywood Patterson and Eugene Williams, who had been their friends for years. All were unemployed and were on their way to look for jobs on the river boats at Memphis. They got on an oil car together aner the end of the train. As the train was leaving Stevenson, Ala., moving slowly, the four boys saw 12 or 14 colored men and seven white men fighting on a car near the front of the train. The white men were forced off the train. As the train slowed down for a grade between Stevenson and Paint Rock stations, the 12 or 14 Negro men also got off. Being completely innocent of any crime, and not even having any idea of danger, the boys did not make any attempt to leave the train and the four of them were sitting on the same tank car they had boarded in Chattanooga when the train pulled into the station at Paint Rock.

Call and Post

5-9-31

There the train was surrounded by a heavily armed mob that had been organized and whipped up to excitement by some "leading citizens," white land-owners and business men. This mob surrounded and searched through the train, pulling off all Negroes. The nine boys were pulled off at different parts of the train and brought together, where they were confronted with two white girls. There two girls, Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, looked at the boys and without hesitation declared that none of these boys had done anything to them.

The colored boys and two white girls were taken to Scottsboro, and there the lynch mob began milling around the town, being incited by white "leading citizens" who had been having trouble, the usual quarrels about money, credit and crops, with their share-crop tenants.

The girls said plainly that these boys had nothing to do with them. But the State Solicitor kept after the girls, continuously saying to them:

"Go ahead and say they did it!"

The boys were brought before the girls again and the State Solicitor shouted:

"That boy attacked you, didn't he? Go ahead and say that he did it!"

The mob continued to howl. The girls finally were persuaded, under the pressure of the State Solicitor, to accuse the boys of rape. The boys were taken to the Gadsden jail. There they were savagely beaten by officers of the law, who kicked and clubbed them while telling them that they must "confess". The boys of course, said that they knew nothing about the affair. A second time they were called out and again beaten most savagely and again all refused to make any confessions.

The sheriff gave out lying reports to the effect that confessions were made, but none were made.

The nine were slated for quick trial, with everybody including court officers, judge, prosecutor, and sheriff assuring the public that there was "no need to lynch them" because they would be convicted so quick that the 'legal' trial would give the "same results" as a lynching on the public square.

The Alabama National Guard was called and surrounded the court-room, but not to protect the prisoners, as there armed men in uniform expressed the desire for the killing of the niggers."

The judge picked out some lawyers who openly expressed their desire to see the boys lynched and appointed these lawyers to act as attorneys for the boys. The hand-picked lawyers came in and advised the boys to plead guilty and to beg for life imprisonment. Of course they refused.

The trial of the boys was jammed through with lightning-speed in four days

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NEWS
CHARLESTON, S. C.

MAY 26 1931

Impertinent Interference

A committee headed by Theodore Dreiser and Lincoln Steffens has sent an open letter to the governor of labama denouncing the death sentences imposed on eight negroes for criminally assaulting two women.

"Many sober-minded people are unable to see how the trial of these boys differs in any of the more important essentials from an outright lynching. The impression is inevitable that the reason for the extraordinary resemblance to an outright lynching in this case lies in the fact that the defendants are friendless negroes."

Dreiser, Steffens and their associates are inpertinent. They misstate the facts. The eight negroes were duly tried and convicted. They were protected from an "outright lynching" by the promptness of the authorities. Haven't Dreiser, Steffens and their associates sense enough to know that the Alabama method averts lynching?

Dreiser, Steffens and their associates did not attend the trial. They know about the case only at long range. They are in no position to criticise. The sovereign state of Alabama makes its criminal laws without consulting the "intelligentsia" in New York.

If the Dreisers and the Steffenses were to have their way, conditions in the United States would be even worse than they are. Their crass impertinence is rightly ignored by the governor of Alabama. Dreiser and Steffens would do well to stick to their writing of books.

Scottsboro Trial Record In Hands of Alabama's Best Criminal Lawyers

Savannah Tribune

5-21-31

Two Condemned Boys Write Asking N. A. A. C. P. Defense and Repudiating Communists

NEGRO NEWSPAPERS RALLYING TO THEIR CAUSE

New York, May 15—The tran scrip of record of the trial in which eight Negro boys charged with rape were railroaded to death sentences in Scottsboro, is now in the hands of the best criminal lawyer in the State of Alabama. Announcemen to this effect was made today by th National Association for the Ad vaneement of Colored People.

The N. A. A. C. P. has also received a letter from two of the boy repudiating the tactics of the Communists and the International Labor Defense in the case and asking that the N. A. A. C. P. take full and entire charge of their defense. The letter written by Ozie Powell, and addressed to Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary, who talked

Savannah, Ga

with him in Kilby Prison, reads as follows:

"I have had a letter from my mother telling me that she talked with you the day you were in Atlanta. I am sure glad you saw her and explained everything. She advised me that I did right in signing the paper for you requesting the International Labor Defense to keep hands off.

"If you remember Clarence Norris was occupying the cell with me and signed the paper for you at the time I did. He asks me to tell you that he preferred the help offered through you from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"We both feel that your organization will do everything in your power to help us and will do it in the right way.

"I don't approve of the manner in which the International Labor Defense has handled things with their demanding telegrams. They have only been agitating. It has given them lots of publicity which no doubt helped their personal gain. But does that really help us? I can't see where it does.

"The I. L. D. learned of your visit the day following visit and neither do I approve of methods used by them of trying to poison our minds such as 'you being our deadly enemy.' As for the International Labor Defense I don't want them to have anything further to do with my case Clarence Norris feels the same as I***"

Colored editors throughout the country are rallying to the cause of the convicted boys and are responding with enthusiasm to the N. A. A. C. P. offer to conduct the defense. A leading white weekly, the New Republic, inquires whether the Communists will withdraw from the case if other groups not arousing the same prejudice will conduct the defense. The editorial then put to death, they will have incurred a terrible responsibility and one which cannot fail to react unfavorably upon the progress of their own cause in the United States,."

Among the colored editors strongly supporting the N. A. A. C. P. is Floyd J. Calvin, who, writing in the Pittsburgh Courier says: " The Communist from releases they have sent out, seem to be seeking to embarrass the N. A. A. C. P. with the parts of the country as a result of the conditions under which the trials were held. While the courthouse was surrounded by 10,000 men, some of them reported to have been armed, and all hostile to the defendants, the trials were made to proceed in rapid succession bringing death verdicts for eight of the boys within but a few hours. A brass band performed within hearing of the courthouse, and the cheering of the hostile crowd in greeting the verdict

of an earlier trial of two of the Negro boys was heard by the jury sitting on the trial of another.

"Many sober-minded persons are unable to see how the trial of these boys differed in any of the more important essentials from an outright lynching. The impression is inevitable that the reason for the extraordinary resemblance to an outright lynching in this case lies in the fact that the defendants are friendless Negroes. When it is considered, furthermore that these are not men of mature age but boys of as little as fourteen years, the picture in the public mind is an alarming one.

"The impression becomes a deep conviction that even-handed justice has not prevailed, when we look at further facts taken from the court record and from reports of local Alabama newspapers not in the least inclined to a critical attitude. Undisputed facts are that the two women afterward used as witnesses against the Negro boys were traveling in male attire in a freight car with seven white men or boys. A quarrel arose between the white and Negro boys on another part of the train on a trivial question entirely unassociated with the women whose presence on the train was not known to most of the Negro boys. White boys, put off the train from which they had threatened to eject the black boys, complained of having been beaten up by Negroes. A telegram was sent ahead, anl when the train reached Paint Rock, a round-up of all "hoboes" then found upon it was made on the basis of a complaint about fighting. The nine Negro boys were found on widely separated parts of a long train.

"The court record shows that the boys, on trial for their lives, with many questions of fact at issue, were forced to trial seven days after their arrangement with obliviously no opportunity for a sifting of evidence or a search for witnesses. These unlettered Negro boys, isolated in jail up to the time of their trial, had no attorneys of their own choice, and the court record shows that the two attorneys appointed for the defense even failed to avail themselves of the opportunity to speak to the jury to ask for an acquittal. These attorneys did not communicate with the parents of the boys (all minors) and the record in at least one case indicates that not only were many eye-witnesses not examined, but no adequate service was performed for the accused boys in cross-questioning of the states' witnesses whose testimony was of the most sketchy character.

"The court record at hand shows a surprisingly straight-forward and detailed testimony of the accused boys, which testimony essentially is unshaken. Although such young country boys could hardly expected to remain unconfused under a sharp fire of cross-examination, these uncultured Negro boys adhered consistently to their stories and maintained their innocence.

"In the four trials, beginning on the day of the opening of the county fair and completed in three days, eight boys were convicted and sentenced to death, the case of the 9th boy ending in a mistrial.

"Your own children, Governor Miller, or the minor sons of any influential white family of Alabama, would not be submitted to this kind of "justice" in an Alabama court, and no state of this union has a right to speak of justice as long as the most friendless Negro child, accused of a crime, receives less than the best defense that would be given its wealthiest white citizen.

"We, the undersigned, declare this conviction to be a shame to the whole American people, excepting only those who may have the courage now to speak and act to stay the crime before its consummation. We already observe that vast numbers of obscure working people, both Negro and white, are stirring to protest this legal crime."

Bridgeport, Ala., Herald
Thursday, May 21, 1931

HEARING FOR NEW TRIAL IS SET FOR JUNE

HEARING POSTPONED ACCOUNT OF ILLNESS

Two Alleged New York Reporters Are Believed To Be Communists Spies

Scottsboro, Ala., May 20—Illness in the family of Judge J. A. Hawkins, of Fort Payne, today caused postponement to June 5, hearing on motions for new trials for eight Negroes sentenced to death for alleged attacks on two young Huntsville (Ala.) white girls who were "bumming" their way home.

The Negroes, in whose behalf the International Labor Defense of New York has interceded, were convicted early in April and sentenced to die in the electric chair on July 15 for the attack which the state charged occured on board a coal car on a moving freight train near Stevenson, Ala., March 24.

After the convictions Stephen R. Roddy, of Chattanooga, retained by by the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, a Negro organization, gave notice of a motion for a new trial. Since the labor defense has retained George W. Chamle, of Chattanooga, whom Roddy terms an "interlopper."

During the trials, the labor defense wired a protest to Judge Hawkins against what it termed "legal lynching" of nine young Negro workers on "framed-up charges." Later the labor defense wired Gov. B. M. Miller at Montgomery, making the same charges and demanding immediate release of the Negroes.

A letter which was signed by Theodore Dreiser, novelist, and Lincoln Steffen, among others, was added to the governor's file on the case at Montgomery today.

"These boys had no friends and no relatives other than penniless black mothers and fathers," the letter said. "But millions who resent this atrocity will become their friends to protest the crime committed against them."

Gov. Miller declined to comment on the letter, merely saying it would be added to the file which has accumulatd at the rate of four or five communications daily. The Governor has answered none of them.

P. W. Campbell, editor of the Jackson County Sentinel, has also received threatening letters from the International Labor Defense has turned the letters over to the U. S. Postal Department. Mr. Campbell hs taken an active part in the case of the nine Negroes and has printed the exact results of the case in the Sentinel. The Labor "Reds" he said are communists who are trying to stir up race prejudice in the South and were not interested in the welfare of the Negroes more than this. This statement has also been made by several of the leading authorities in the case..

Jackson County citizens believe, and well know that the Negroes were given a fair trial in the Jackson County Courts and are willing to go the limit to protect their honesty in the matter.

There is no doubt that after the hearing for a new trail June 5, the case will be taken to high court and same sentence.

Durham, N. C. Sun
Saturday, May 23, 1931

NEGRO MINISTERS ASSAIL REDS ON SCOTTSBORO CASE

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 23.—(AP)—The city interdenominational ministers' alliance of Negro divines today issued a denunciation of the international labor defense for its activity on behalf of eight Negro youths under death sentence for purported attack of two white girl hoboes aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala.

At the same time S. R. Roddy, white attorney employed by the alliance in the attack case, claimed he had received mysterious warnings to "get out," and his wife had been telephone several times that he would be "put on the spot" if he continued representing the alliance.

The statement of the ministers said the labor defense interest in the Scottsboro case is "mainly for the purpose of drawing Negroes of the south into the communist organization, and if the movement is successful it will tear the south asunder and destroy the peace and harmony existing for many years."

Roddy has issued several statements against the labor defense for its alleged communist propaganda.

Hearing of a motion for a new trial of the Negroes is set down in Scottsboro for June 5. Roddy was attorney for the Negroes in their original trial. The labor defense has charged that his legal efforts were inadequate and lukewarm.

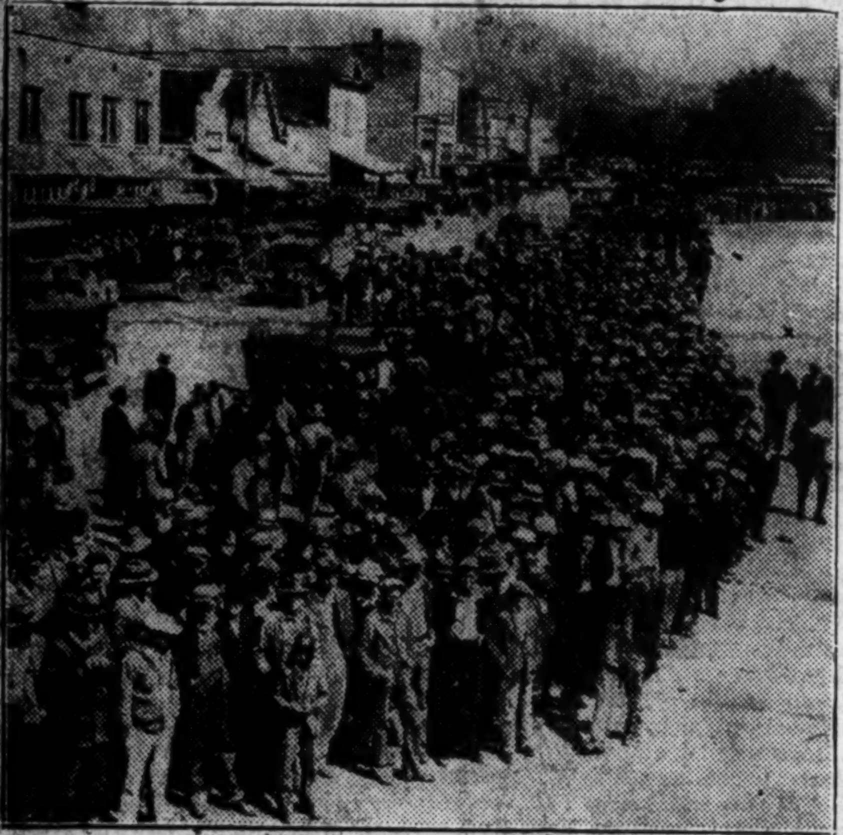
Lynchings-1931
Legal P[illegible]ishment for Rape.

Alabama.

3356

Madisonville, Ky., Messenger
Friday, April 10, 1931

Crowd At Trials Of Rapists



Associated Press Photo

Part of the crowd of 10,000 people who jammed the courthouse square in Scottsboro, Alabama, during the trials of nine Negroes charged with assaulting two young white girls who were stealing a ride in a freight car, near Stevenson, Ala.

Eight of the Negroes were sentenced to the electric chair. The ninth will get a new trial. He is only 14 years old. At his first trial the state did not ask the death penaly as all of the defendants testified he took no part in the attacks.

Defense counsel has stated that appeals will be asked for all of the Negroes.

Rendering Aid to Mob Violence.

Commercial
Appeal

Down in Alabama a group of negroes committed the most heinous kind of an offense against two white girls. It was the sort of crime that provokes blood red anger and inspires ~~to mob violence. But the~~ law enforcing authorities called out troops and successfully used other measures to bring the guilty to a lawful trial. Attorneys were named for them and a fight made in their behalf. But the jury has found eight of them guilty and inflicted the penalty commensurate with their crime. 4-11-31

Instead of complimenting the authorities of the particular section upon their success in upholding law and order and lawful processes an organization calling itself the International Labor Defense is trying to meddle in the matter. Representatives of this organization would rule out trial by jury and establish themselves as superior to judge, counsel, jury and court. These trouble makers are asserting that the convicted men were not given a fair trial.

Memphis
Tenn

Were it not for the fact that busybodies of this sort interfere with the efforts of thinking leaders and the best newspapers in their fight against mob violence no attention would be paid to their meddling. When it projected itself into the case the main objective of the so-called defense organization was to cause trouble just as its set purpose was to find something wrong in the court proceedings. But about all that will be accomplished by such meddling is the rendering of aid to the restoration of mob violence.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.
SUN

APR 11 1930

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

At a time when attention is directed anew to the subject of capital punishment, when the governor of one state has vetoed a bill to restore the death penalty for murder and the people of another state, by popular referendum, have voted against reviving execution as punishment for murder, the story from Scottsboro, Alabama, of the sentencing to death of eight young Negroes for criminal attack upon two white girls is bound to attract national attention.

Most southern states, if not all, have laws prescribing the death penalty as punishment for criminal attack and it is frequently invoked, if lynching has not forestalled applying the penalty by legal means. No exception seems to be made in Alabama in consideration of the age of the defendants, in this case ranging from 20 years to 16. In the case of a ninth boy involved there has been a disagreement, seemingly based upon his youth, as he is but 14 years old.

If there is any credit to Alabama in this whole affair it is that no wholesale addition to the toll of lynchings has resulted. The law seemingly took control of the situation promptly and effectively and to have safeguarded the prisoners from the mob violence which might have been expected. The law is having its way. It is admittedly a harsh law, but if its full force is applied in this case it will not constitute as serious a blot upon the name of Alabama as would a wholesale lynching.

Alabama had four of the 25 lynchings in the United States in 1930. Georgia had seven, the report of the National Association for the Advancement of colored people reveals, while Texas had four. Six other states accounted for the remaining 10. All but one of the victims were Negroes. Quite the most striking thing in the report is that in one Georgia community where a Negro was lynched for an alleged attack upon a white girl, another Negro was shot to death in his home two days later because he testified in court that two white men had attacked a colored woman.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

APR 11 1931

The Right Way, in Alabama.

AT SCOTTSBORO, ALA., Thursday, sentence of death was passed on a band of eight Negroes who had made a criminal assault upon two young white girls, of Huntsville. The authorities had recognized the possibility of an attempt to lynch the prisoners, and had kept an adequate force of National Guardsmen about the courthouse to be used in case of emergency.

If the same thing had happened 20 years or more ago, a wholesale lynching would have been virtually inevitable, with no serious attempt to prevent it, and no attempt at all to punish its perpetrators after it was over. In spite of the fact that there were more lynchings in the South during 1930 than during the previous year, it remains true that there has been a radical improvement in sentiment on this subject during the present generation, and what occurred at Scottsboro, Thursday, is now the rule, not the exception.

GROUP TO APPEAL NEGRO'S SENTENCE

Constitution

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 14.—(AP)—The International Labor Defense will appeal the death sentences imposed on eight negroes by the Jackson county jail at Scottsboro last week for attacking two young white girls on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., March 14. 4-15-31

Douglas McKenzie, district representative, and Allan Traub, New York attorney, issued a statement today after a conference with the negroes who are in the Jefferson county jail for safe keeping charged that the negroes had been "framed" and that a notice of appeal would be filed immediately.

Atlanta, Ga.

The statement charged that the negroes were being "railroaded" to their death for a crime of which they are absolutely innocent," and that their so-called confessions were obtained after brutal beatings by the sheriff and his deputies.

"This legal courthouse lynching is part and parcel of the whole campaign of the southern bourbons to smash down any resistance of the masses of negroes against unemployment, starvation and denial of every right supposedly granted the whole people of this country," the statement said.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
Friday, April 24, 1931

DOOMED NEGROES ASK 'HANDS OFF

Scottsboro Attackers Denounce International Labor Defense And Communists

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 23—(AP)—Eight negroes sentenced to die for attacking two young white girls near Scottsboro March 14, today issued statements denouncing the International Labor Defense and requesting "Communists to lay off."

The statements were made to pastors of negro churches here and in Chattanooga, and to Stephen Roddy, Chattanooga attorney, who defended them in their trials at Scottsboro.

Two representatives of the labor defense interviewed the negroes several days ago and issued a statement charging that the negroes had been "framed from start to finish," and added that their cases would be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Roddy, W. M. James, former truant officer of Chattanooga, the Rev. L. P. Whitten, pastor of the Stanley Chapel Negro Methodist Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, and the Rev. H. C. Terrel Birmingham, were in conference with the negroes several hours today.

Following the conference a statement was given out by Whitten that "negro preachers of the South and negroes in general are not in sympathy with intervention in the case by the International Labor Defense. It looks to us like an attempt to rally negroes of the South to their organization, and we don't believe its representatives have any sincere interest in helping these condemned negroes."

The negroes are being held in the Jefferson County Jail here pending their removal to Kilby Prison, State Penitentiary, where they are scheduled to be electrocuted July 10.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
Monday, May 4, 1931

MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Nine Negro boys taken from freight train at Paint Rock face electric chair in Scottsboro, Alabama. On this train were white boys, amongst others, Orville Gilley, of Albertville, Alabama; John Ferguson, of Richmond, Virginia; Roy Thurman, of England, Arkansas; Odell Gladsen, of Houston, Texas; Lester Carter, of Knoxville, Tennessee; John W. Gleason, of Valdosta, Georgia; Odell Gladwell, of Houston, Texas. These white boys and any other persons on the freight train should communicate at once with the undersigned in order that Justice may be done the defendants. Persons having information concerning the whereabouts of these boys or any other information pertaining to the cases should communicate such information at once to International Labor Defense, 799 Broadway, New York City.

Slocomb, Ala., Observer
Thursday, April 16, 1931

NEGRO ATTACKERS AND THEIR VICTIMS

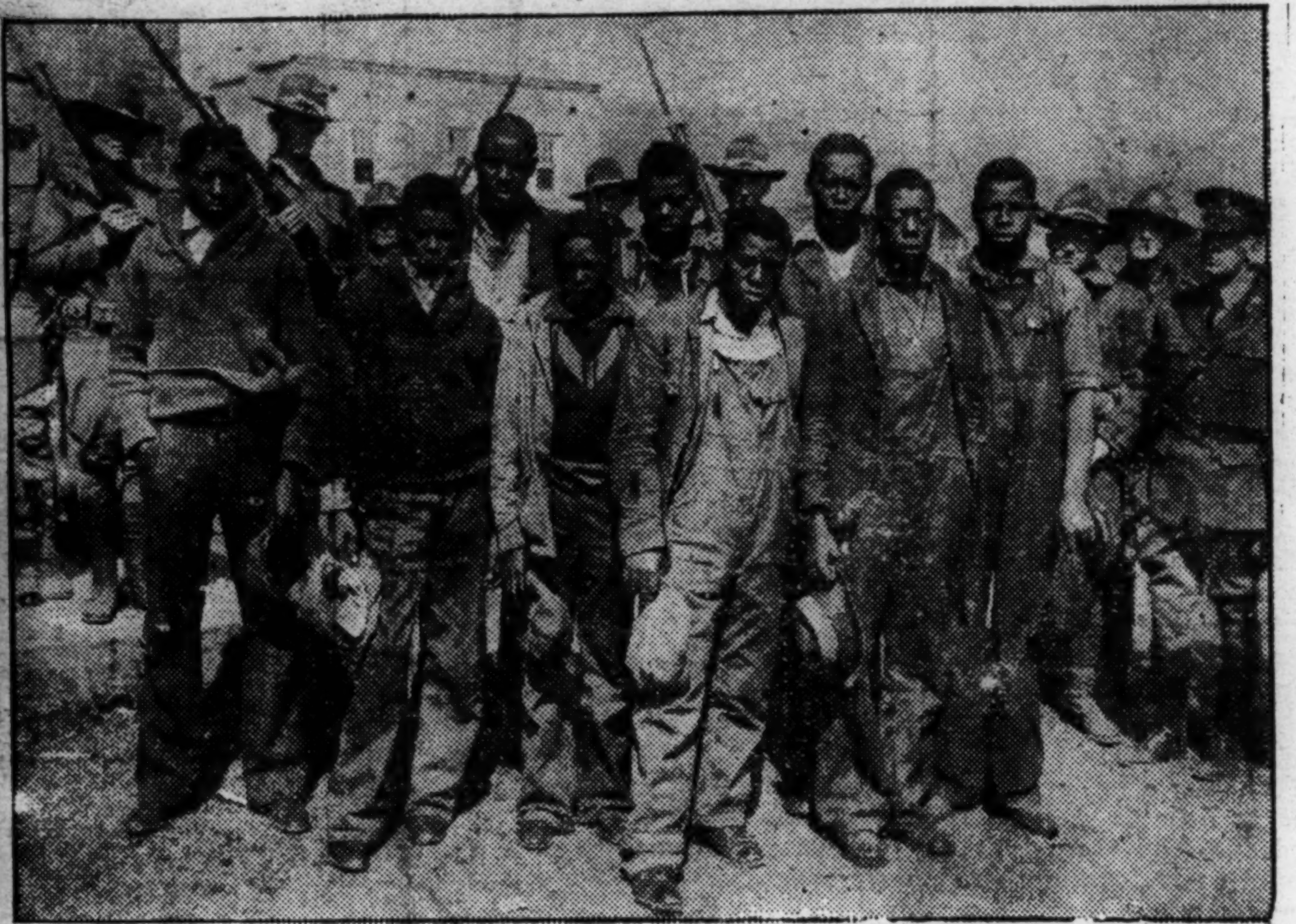


Photo above shows 9 negroes convicted of attacking two white girls after they had thrown the girls' white boy companions from a Southern freight train between Sevenson and Scottsboro on Wednesday, March 25. While this picture was being snapped, armed guardsmen, with automatic rifles and riot guns, may be seen in the rear.

Below is shown the two girls, who were the victims. These girls identified all of the above pictured negroes as those who attacked them.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
VINDICATOR

APR 17 1931

The Law Takes Its Course

The court at Scottsboro, Ala., has passed sentence of death upon eight Negroes convicted of criminal assault, and that tells of the change in public sentiment in the South. A force of National Guardsmen had been kept constantly on duty about the courthouse to be used in case of emergency which, happily did not arise, people being content to let the law take its course instead of taking the law into their own hands and disgracing the state and their county by a lynching. While credit is due the community for its regard for the law and confidence that justice would prevail under it, the action of the authorities is not to be overlooked. They were prepared to defend the prisoners in their charge and see that they had a fair trial.

While there were a few more lynchings in the South last year than in the previous year, sentiment has grown strongly against mob rule, this generation knowing full well that communities where law and order prevail can offer inducements to others to cast their lot with them.

Scottsboro, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, April 16, 1931

ALABAMA'S LAW TAKES ITS COURSE

(Chattanooga Times)

With eight of the nine Negroes who criminally assaulted two white girl hoboes on a freight train, the law of Alabama has taken its course. They have been found guilty of one of the most atrocious crimes ever committed in this section and have been sentenced to pay with their lives. The ninth and youngest member of the group will be brought to trial in the near future.

Alabama is to be commended upon the dispatch with which this matter was disposed of. The crime was committed on March 24th and the eight criminals were tried, convicted and sentenced last week. The swiftness of justice has added to its impressiveness. The authorities are also to be commended for the precautions they took against possible violence. If the good judgment they showed were more generally displayed in provocative situations and if justice were uniformly as swift as it was at Scottsboro, hotheads would take the law into their own hands much less frequently.

From the arrest of the nine Negroes until the convicted, sentenced criminals were sent from the town, the people of Scottsboro and vicinity set the rest of the South an impressive example in self-restraint and in readiness to let justice be done in a legal and orderly manner. Many another community with much less provocation has disgraced itself and the South by outraging duly constituted authority. The wholesome influence of Scottsboro's example should not be without its good effect.

The only regrettable development in connection with the trial was the intrusion of certain Northern organizations with charges concerning the trial and demands concerning the criminals. Their action, in addition to being unwarranted, was most unfortunate. Interference of this kind can serve no purpose other than to make it more difficult to stop lynchings in the South. Nothing has done more to aggravate the race question in this section than just such meddleing by outside agencies.

New York Communists Protest Electrocution Of Eight Alabama Negroes

Advertiser
4-26-31
Montgomery

NEW YORK, April 25—(AP)—Police today swung their night sticks and dispersed about 400 Communists who hissed at an order forbidding them to parade in a demonstration against the forthcoming electrocution of eight negro boys convicted of criminal assault at Scottsboro, Ala.

Crowds gathered at 140th Street and Lenox Avenue where the parade was to have started despite refusal of authorities to issue a permit. Police reserves had been sent to the neighborhood in anticipation of disorder.

Booing and hissing, the demonstrators carried huge signs bearing legends of "down with the lynch law" and "negroes and whites fight together against the Scottsboro frame-up."

The boys were convicted of assaulting girls.

Four demonstrators, all with minor injuries, were arrested. One policeman also was slightly hurt.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3330

THE EIGHT CONVICTED NEGRO BOYS AND THE SCOTTSBORO TRIAL

Reporter 6-13-31

Birmingham, Ala.

Perhaps no incident in the history of Alabama has been more widely discussed than the trial and conviction of eight Negro boys, who are charged with attacking two white girls, all styled as hoboes on a freight train en route to Huntsville, Ala.

The story as told by the young women is sufficient to excite unusual and high feeling. It is enough to invite the careful attention of the most stupid among us. If this story is to be regarded as true, the boys must have been drunk or insane, and the wonder is that no one suffered any serious attack except the weaker members of the party the girls themselves. It is reported somewhere that one of the white boys suffered slight abuse.

There is diligent and consistent effort on the part of the white and black people of America to know the truth in this matter, in order that justice may be done society, and relieve the situation of any doubtful impression. Certainly if these young fellows, poorly trained, primitive when we think of intelligence, are guilty of the vile attack charged to them, then the punishment prescribed under the law for such an act should be administered. But the question is not so much, as we understand it, on the prescribed penalty, or the verdict rendered by the jury, but did the evidence justify such a verdict? Are the boys guilty? Does there exist any mitigation which would indicate doubt as to the possibilities of such an act?

Any decent citizen regardless of his color, station, or section in which he lives, would oppose such a violence against womanhood, and there is not the slightest effort, as we understand it, to shield anyone in this matter, but there is and should be plenty effort to find out the truth, and that without the thought of color, section or race.

The Negro race as such is carrying many tons of unnecessary burdens because of race prejudice, and because its day is short in court, and its chances slim before the bar of justice.

Negroes have been abused, refused, and labelled as a group of questionable characters, whose integrity can ascend only to a certain height. He is hardly ever regarded as a citizen, but as a subject, and when he comes before the bar of justice, he comes with every impediment that is possible for a human being to bring. Little sympathy is extended to the Negro when a member of the opposite race feels to charge him with offense of whatever nature. He is considered the under-dog. He knows what right is, he knows what would be done in similar circumstances if another race was involved, he sometimes knows the law, and he also knows that many times he is not protected under the law.

The question has gone all over America and perhaps in many foreign countries: Did the eight Negroes get a fair trial in Jackson County, Alabama? We venture the assertion that they did get as fair a trial as the circumstances permitted, and as customs and policies would allow. This statement does not in any sense say that these boys had a fair trial under the law, or that it was possible that they could have had a fair trial in Jackson County, Alabama.

The great State of Alabama is being criticized from one end of the country to another. The lives of eight souls wrapped up in black skin are hanging on a thread. These souls have been sentenced to the electric chair to be parched to death on the evidence of two white girls. The testimony is being challenged, under the circumstances and conditions it should be seriously challenged. And, if Alabama and Georgia are producing Negroes with such characters as is charged in the indictment of the eight Negro boys, the nation should know it, the race should know it, and speedy justice should be rendered. If Alabama and Georgia are not producing such characters, and the jury was misinformed by the statements made to it in Scottsboro, the world should know it, and the boys though black should be set free.

Every effort in the direction to secure justice in this matter should be exercised by those who believe in fair play and honest dealings with all human-kind. We can make no mistake, we can do no harm in diligently and honestly searching for the truth in this matter that the court may know, and, if a new trial is had, the next jury will have a more concrete statement and evidence before it for consideration, free of fear, and beyond all, free of race prejudice.

None can suffer more than they should when the truth is known. None should be more ready to give the truth, and know the truth than those who are to administer justice.

Mobs are always dangerous, and quite uncertain. It is impossible to have a fair trial when terror reigns, where the populus is crying, crucify him, hang him, slay him, burn him! This kind of thing is certain to have its bearing upon a court, and upon the jury.

There should be no hesitancy on the part of all of us to religiously make our appropriation, and whatever way seems best to save our great state, and to save for the sake of humanity every vestige of right that the eight Negro boys are entitled to under the constitutional laws of the land of which they are a part. There should be equal interest exercised for those who hold claims against these boys, and in such a grave circumstance where life, liberty, and character are all at stake, the prosecuting interest should come in with clean hands. The case should not be decided upon race prejudice, or because certain sexes are involved. The dominating forces of Alabama should seek only justice in this matter, as justice is all to which any of us are entitled.

YONKERS, N. Y.
STATESMAN

JUN 9 1931

Communists Protest Negro Murder Trial

Thirteen labor and communist organizations were represented at the conference to protest against lynching and the murder trial of ~~nine~~ Negroes in Scottsboro, Ala., last night in the Workers' Cooperative Center at 252 Warburton Avenue under the auspices of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense of Yonkers.

James Lorence presided at the conference and F. E. A. Welsh, Negro district organizer for the International Labor Defense, were the principal speakers of the evening. Both men condemned the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Walter F. White, its acting secretary.

Two resolutions were adopted attacking the association for failing to aid the nine convicted murderers and urging workers to join the movement for the release of the Negroes. The conference also voted to send telegrams to the Governor of Alabama and the trial judge, demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the men and new trials with juries composed half of Negro workers. They also voted to send a telegram to the condemned men.

A United Front Committee was appointed to raise funds for a new trial for the Scottsboro Negroes.

Massachusetts Negroes Refuse To Interfere With Scottsboro Court Verdic

Advertiser 6-21-31

Montgomery, Ala.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS., June 20.—(AP)—New England Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church today refused to act on a petition submitted by the defense committee of the National Textile Workers' Union asking the conference to adopt a resolution condemning the death sentence imposed on eight negro youths for alleged attacks on two white girls near Scottsboro, Ala.

J. G. Robinson, Philadelphia, who presided at today's sessions, declared the "negroes of the United States will not be led towards communism by agitators."

A CAROLINA EDITOR ON THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

In the following editorial The Charleston News and Courier discusses the affair of the eight Alabama negroes now under sentence for assault in Jackson county with a sanity and discernment that are wholly characteristic of that great paper. We reproduce it in full that its weight may not be diminished by the attrition of paraphrasing:

Advertiser

Had the eight negroes under sentence of death in Scottsboro, Alabama, been tried in South Carolina, The News and Courier doubts if all of them would have been convicted. It doubts if any of them would have been executed. In this State, many a negro against whom a stronger case has been made has escaped with his life, notwithstanding that many another has been done to death by a mob when he was not guilty.

6-10-31

This opinion is subject to a proviso. The eight negroes would not have been put to death in South Carolina had South Carolina been permitted to deal with them as a sovereign State, not set upon and yelped at by all sorts of pestiferous, often ignorant and sometimes vicious organizations and individuals in foreign parts. To South Carolina the people of other states are of "foreign parts" when they interfere with its administration of justice.

Whether it be right or wrong for societies of New York or Boston to engage in efforts to direct and modify our legal procedure in relation to the "race question," for example, we resent it. Any kind of organized movement in foreign parts to direct and control our ways of trying a criminal, white or black, would enrage us. In it would lurk a danger of maddening our people, of impairing their sense of proportion, of discernment, of causing them to "see red," to be blinded.

It occurs to The News and Courier, that were a delegation of the "best people" of Charleston, financed by a Charleston society, to go to Scottsboro to defend these negroes, it would probably defeat its purposes. The people of Alabama would say, "Why don't you mind your own business? Have you no crimes in South Carolina? Who made you judges in Israel? This is not your 'Israel'."

Montgomery, Ala.

The Alabamians would go further and say: "The civilization of this commonwealth, good or bad, is ours. We do not want a civilization imposed upon us." The judicious, enlightened, thoughtful Alabamians, desirous of deliberate, thorough-going investigation of the Scottsboro case would proceed: "Oh, well, what's the use? These intruders are firing the passions of our mobs. What can we do? We cannot work effectively with a New York society of negroes or with another of communists. If they are to handle the defense of these negroes, let them fight it out with the insensate negro haters in our population and the demagogues who thrive on the race hatreds which we deplore in Alabama. If we interfere we simply sacrifice the influence that we have been trying to exert to improve conditions, the complexities of which we think we understand better than the outsiders do. Deep in this Scottsboro case lie phases of a problem that the strangers not only do not perceive but which we would be hopeless of making clear to them. Alabama must be permitted to shape its own courses, to chart its own destiny, even to make its own blunders, some of them shocking and tragic. If we cannot have an Alabamian civilization, homemade and distinctive in its integrity, no other kind is desirable. If 'Americanism' means the warping of Alabama's movements to the will of foreigners, to that extent we are not Americans."

Anyway, that is how South Carolina would feel in like circumstances, and one suspects that other states are of similar mind. Massachusetts has probably learned a lesson in the Sacco and Vanzetti case which it ought to have learned eighty years ago and will not forget in many a long time.

From the little that The News and Courier has been able to learn from conflicting courts, the hope is formed in it that the eight negroes will not be executed, but it cannot advance the hope's realization by suggesting that the courts of Alabama are degraded and cruel, and that the juries are composed of barbarians, that the respectable and informed people are poltroons and cowards, and that this indictment of them would be proved should the sentence of the Scottsboro court be carried out.

The Advertiser begs to assure The News and Courier that in its opinion the condemned men had a fair trial under the laws of Alabama.

They are as guilty as any men that ever faced the electric chair.

Every safeguard was thrown around them. The sheriff of Jackson county acted with courage and speed in protecting the accused from possible violence. He deputized a number of the leading citizens of his town to stand by his side and let any mob that might arise know that somebody would suffer if violence was attempted.

A special term of the grand jury was thereupon called, and indictments followed. When they were put to trial the National Guard was on hand, the presiding judge acted with decision to keep the courtroom under control, and free of any suggestion of intimidation.

There were eight convictions and one mistrial.

And Jackson county was applauded by the anti-mob citizens of Alabama.

In any other Southern State except Alabama or Virginia these men would not have lived to be indicted.

TO DECIDE ON NEW TRIAL THIS WEEK

Kansas City Call

6-19-31

Kansas City, Mo

NAACP Lawyers Present Affidavit Stating One Boy Was Forced to Testify

SCOTTSBORO, Alabama—Judge A. E. J. Hawkins listened here Saturday, June 13, while Judge William E. Fort of the famous Birmingham law firm of Fort, Beddow and Ray, presented an affidavit from one of the eight condemned colored boys which stated that the boy had been forced to identify other boys as rapists or else be lynched.

The Birmingham law firm one of the best in the entire South, has been retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The argument by Judge Fort, senior member of the firm, was to secure, if possible, a new trial for the eight boys now condemned to die in the electric chair July 10 for alleged attacks on two white girl hoboes on a freight train through northern Alabama last March 25.

Threatened With Lynching

The affidavit presented by Judge Fort Saturday specifically states that Charles Norris, one of the boys, had the third degree used on him by the Scottsboro officials to make him say that he saw the rest of the boys attacking the two white girls. He states in his affidavit that the officials promised him that if he would say this he would go free and that if he did not say so he would certainly be electrocuted and perhaps lynched.

Judge Hawkins announced that he would take the argument under advisement and would announce his decision on a new trial some time in the coming week.

If a new trial is denied the boys, the NAACP lawyers will carry the case to the Alabama supreme court and on to the United States supreme court, if that be necessary.

Mob-Dominated Trial

The NAACP is resting its case on the precedent established in the Elaine, Ark., riot cases of 1923, wherein the supreme court held that although the form of a trial had been gone through according to law, because of mob sentiment the trial could not be called a fair one and that the defendants had, therefore, been deprived of their liberty without due process of law.

In the Scottsboro cases, the nine boys were rushed through a trial in 72 hours. Most of them were tried while a mob of 2,000 persons shouted for blood around the courthouse and a brass band was playing tunes in celebration of the death sentences as they were announced. Members of the jury mingled with the mob during recess and it is said the jury for the second series of three trials was actually selected from the mob.

Judge Fort was accompanied into the courtroom by Stephen R. Roddy of Chattanooga, who acted as lawyer for the boys in the first trial. Mr. Roddy is being retained jointly by the NAACP and the Chattanooga Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance.

LAWYERS WANT MORE TIME TO WORK ON BRIEFS

Journal & Guide

6-13-31

Norfolk, Va

N.A.A.C.P. And I.L.D. Still At Odds On Question

SCOTTSBORO, Ala.—A continuance of ten days was granted at last Saturday's hearing in Scottsboro Court, Alabama, to enable attorneys for the eight condemned Negro boys to file new briefs and affidavits. This move was planned by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in order to permit the introduction of affidavits showing that some of the boys had been frightened and tricked into turning state's evidence and testifying that they saw certain of their companions commit the attack with which all were charged.

William Pickens, N. A. A. C. P. field secretary, now in Alabama, reports that he requested Stephen R. Roddy and Milo Moody, the two N. A. A. C. P. lawyers, to ask the judge for the continuance for the additional purpose of enabling the new lawyers retained by the N. A. A. C. P. to head the case to familiarize themselves thoroughly with all its details.

An attorney representing the firm retained by the N. A. A. C. P. to head the defense was in court as an observer. The name of this firm is to be made public in the coming week and full details as to the procedure which have been worked out by Mr. Pickens, now in Alabama, who has kept in constant touch with the National Office in New York by telegraph, long distance telephone and air mail.

Communists' Lawyers There

Joseph R. Brodsky, New York attorney, appeared with statements signed by the boys saying he was authorized, with George W. Chamblee, of Chattanooga, Tenn., to act as their counsel. Brodsky told the court he had been warned by residents here to "get out of town and stay out."

Affidavits were filed by the defense attorney in which the character of the girls, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price was attacked and others were filed by John E. Thompson, circuit solicitor, denying the allegations.

Brodsky said he and Chamblee have been employed by the Inter-Racial Labor Defense League to represent the youths, who, were convicted in Circuit Court here and sentenced to die July 10 in the electric chair in the State penitentiary at Montgomery.

If another trial is denied, he said, the International Labor Defense, will carry the fight to the United States Supreme Court.

Theodore Dreiser, the novelist, will lead an open protest meeting in Town Hall here in behalf of the Negroes at 8:15 p. m. tomorrow.

Seized on Freight Train

The boys—two aged 14—were picked up March 25 by deputy sheriffs, from a freight train that was passing through Paint Rock, Ala.

Two white girls, dressed in overalls also were arrested on the train. The Negroes were first held as hoboes, but later accused of attacking the girls on the freight train, after some white boys whom they had been fighting left the train thirty-eight miles back.

Fifteen days later the eight were sentenced to death after a series of three trials in three days. A ninth boy, 13, had a mistrial when eleven of the jury demanded death and the twelfth held out for life imprisonment.

10,000 Witnessed Trials

"Our first ground for a retrial," Mr. Brodsky said, "will be that they were denied fair trials. During the trials, a mob of 10,000 gathered in Scottsboro, which has a normal population of 1,500.

"The National Guard, sent in by the Governor, kept the crowd back by posting machine guns around the court house. A brass band was brought in and the crowd applauded and shouted after each verdict of guilty."

Despite this showing of feeling, he declared, Judge A. J. Hawkins, who presided, refused an adjournment or a change of venue.

"Although Negroes are permitted on a jury," Mr. Brodsky continued, "of the two hundred jurymen called not one Negro was included.

State Rushed Cases

"Third, when the first jury retired to deliberate, the State started right in with the second case. After the first jury returned, the second was taken to a room thirty feet away with the transom open and the rest of the panel, called later to try the others, was left sitting in the courtroom."

The fourth point will be that the defendants were in fact never represented by counsel, although two lawyers appeared for them.

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald

Monday, June 15, 1931

SCOTTSBORO, it seems, is the largest asylum for crazy lances. The South has often been target for tilters with fine words on their tongues. Sometimes, it must be confessed, the target has been fair, the tilting useful, and the words as pertinent as they were fine. But, more and more, in recent years it has come to pass that the prejudice and prosecution against which the lances purported to be laid have shifted their real substance from the target to the tilters.

* * *

That shift is eloquent in the present clamor at Scottsboro. Eight negroes, charged with a crime which Southern law punishes with death and Southern opinion holds the most heinous in all the categories, were subjected to regular process of law and found guilty. Alabamians believed the trial fair and the decision just. They were proud of the manner in which order had been maintained and legal justice done under circumstances which have too often roused public passion to the point of anarchy in the South and in other sections as well. But their pride found no applause among the professional tilters and chronic lance levelers of other sections, whose habit is to hold the South forever unfair to the negro and whose delight is to discover prejudice and persecution in every Southern process.

* * *

The money and the legal talent which these professionals have concentrated at Scottsboro in the effort to undo the legal decision there are entitled to their day in court. Pride in the orderly processes the law has been allowed to take thus far must not be impeached now by any outbreaks which would impede the continued orderliness of the course. Alabama should lean backward in fairness to the professional gentlemen at Scottsboro as they make their legal stand for reversal. But not far enough backward to surrender one whit to the prejudices for which it believes these gentlemen stand. Scottsboro, it seems to us, is significant of the whole task which lies before the South today, the task of preserving itself against the passions and misemployments of others even as it cleanses itself of its own.

* * *

There is no more liberal or unprejudiced a point of view in all Alabama than that of Editor Grover Hall, of The Montgomery Advertiser. He has never hesitated to oppose his own people when he has believed them wrong. He has dared to take issue with his fellow Southerners on matters involving some of their deepest feelings. It should be something to the professional gentlemen at Scottsboro that Editor Hall is unstinting now in his denunciation of the hue and cry raised against the Scottsboro decision by the Don Quixotes of this country. "There was no intimidation of the court and the jury from Jackson County people," he writes. "The only attempt at intimidation came from New York, where Dreiser's idiotic committee is headquartered. That committee sent threatening telegrams to the judge. It was a fair and orderly procedure from begining to end, and under the laws of this state the decision is just."

Lynchings - 1931.
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3358

Victims of Southern Race Prejudice

Nine youths, eight of whom face the electric chair in Scottsboro, Ala., where they were found guilty of rape by a jury. All nine protest their innocence and blame the [illegible] officials of Scottsboro. These youths claim the two girls denied having been attacked or even molested by any of them during their ride from Chattanooga, but after having talked to the Scottsboro authorities they changed their story and the rape trial resulted. The International Labor Defense has taken up the cause of these young man and have secured the legal services of George W. Chamlee, former attorney general of Hamilton county, which embraces Chattanooga, Tenn. Mr. Chamlee, in a statement to the press, says he will take the case to the Alabama supreme court and if necessary to the United States supreme court. Leading citizens of both races all over the country have been attracted to the case. Most of them believe the boys innocent and the attempt to railroad them to death will be fought with every legal power possible. Note in the back the drawn guns of the Alabama state militia.

Defender 5-23-31

SECRETARY ANNOUNCES DEFENSE PLANS

Courier 5-16-31

Walter White Returns From Alabama — Say Six Boys Want N. A. A. C. P. Aid— Two Undecided—Counsel Retained.

Pittsburgh Pa.

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

NEW YORK, May 14.—According to unconfirmed reports, Clarence Darrow, famous criminal lawyer, whose defense in the Dr. Swee case of Detroit, several years ago brought the N. A. A. C. P. nationa recognition, may be retained a counsel in the Scottsboro, Ala., cas

NEW YORK, May 14.—Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, returned Friday morning from a week's stay in Chattanooga, Birmingham, and a visit to Kilby Prison, near Montgomery, during which he talked with the 8 boys condemned to death at Scottsboro, Ala., on April 9th, on charges of assault upon two white girls in a freight train.

Four of the eight boys signed agreements requesting the N. A. A. C. P. to defend them. Two of the boys want N. A. A. C. P. legal defense, but wished to communicate with their parents to obtain their consent. The remaining two of the boys, bewildered by the trouble in which the find themselves, are undecided wha they wish done. The ninth boy, i whose case there was a mistrial, i in prison in Birmingham and ha also been offered aid by the N. A. A. C. P.

Courier 5-16-31

Mr. White announced that the N. A. A. C. P. had retained one of the most eminent criminal lawyers in the state of Alabama, who will enter the case when arrangements have been completed with the boys and their parents. His name will be announced at that time. Two local attorneys at Chattanooga and Scottsboro, Messrs. Stephen R. Roddy and Milo Moody are now doing the necessary detail work under the direction of the N. A. A. C. P. A retainer fee has already been paid these two attorneys. All briefs and motions, said Mr. White, would be gone over by the National Legal Committee of the N. A. A. C. P., and by Nathan R. Margold, celebrated constitutional authority recently retained by the N. A. A. C. P.

Immediately on his return to the N. A. A. C. P. national office at 69 Fifth avenue, Mr. White issued the following statement:

"The N. A. A. C. P. in this case, as it has done throughout its entire history, intends to do its utmost to see to it that the eight condemned colored boys now in Kilby prison in Alabama, get a fair trail and are freed when proven innocent.

"I talked to the boys in prison. In the presence of the warden, two deputy wardens, the turnkey and the Rev. H. C. Terrell of Birmingham, four of the boys signed and gave to me statements empowering the N. A. A. C. P. to act in their defense. Two of the boys want N. A. A. C. P. aid but wish to obtain the consent of their parents before committing themselves. The remaining two are confused and undecided.

"It should be remembered that the boys and their parents are humble folk and have had few opportunities for knowledge. They have been confused by the conflicting statements made to them. The Communists and the International Labor Defense have immensely complicated and intensified the difficulty of defending these boys. There is no objection to Communists organizing defense or aiding in the defense of the boys, were such defense effective and sincere.

"But the intemperate statements of the Communists, the threatening telegrams sent to the sheriff and the governor have merely served to intensify the already inflamed sentiment in Alabama. Communist sympathizers actually sent telegrams to the sheriff and governor demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the boys, a thing which neither was empowered by law to do. The sheriff at Birmingham is quoted as saying that were he to give to the press the telegrams he received from Communists the strong Birmingham jail would not keep out a mob for two hours.

"The consensus of opinion among intelligent white and colored people who hope for new trial and release of the boys, is that if the Communist tactics are continued they will only seriously prejudice further attempts to save the boys.

"The N. A. A. C. P. entertains no doubt of the boys' innocence of the rape charged. The N. A. A. C. P. believes in acting effectively and striking hard. But it cannot in any way co-operate with the Communists who have villified the N. A. A. C. P., accused it in documents submitted for the signature of the boys' parents of being traitorous, and have stopped at nothing in their efforts to exclude the N. A. A. C. P. from the case, then proceeding to charge the N. A. A. C. P. with failure to co-operate.

"The same attitude has been taken by Communists toward the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance and all other groups and individuals who do not submit to Communist dictation.

"After a thorough, careful and impartial investigation on the scene I am convinced that there are strong grounds for believing the boys now in jail at Kilby Prison to be innocent of the crime charged. If any crime was committed, it was not the crime of rape. Among numerous other reasons for this belief, I learned at the prison that one of the boys is now and has been for eight months suffering from two venereal diseases, and that it would have been impossible for him to have had relations with the white girls.

"Examination of the girls by two white physicians showed no signs of infection, which would have been present had this boy raped them. Nevertheless this boy was found guilty with the rest.

"The most eminent white criminal lawyer in Alabama is now examining the transcript of testimony in the trial. He will visit the boys in Kilby prison this week. Associated with him, if necessary, will be eminent outside counsel. In any case, if it is made possible for the N. A. A. C. P. to undertake the defense, all papers, briefs and motions, will be thoroughly gone over by the National Legal Committee of the N. A. A. C. P. and by Nathan R. Margold, eminent constitutional lawyer recently retained by the Association.

"Unfortunately the parents of the boys have had the facts in the case so misrepresented to them by Communist emissaries that they do not realize what they will be letting themselves and their sons in for, if they add to the anti-Negro prejudice already rampant, the equally great prejudice against the Communists. Sincere friends of the parents would do well to point this out to them."

Mr. White brought with him a document presented by Communists for the signature of one of the boys' mothers in which the N. A. A. C. P. is charged with playing "dirty lawyers tricks," and the N. A. A. C. P. forces are called "traitors." Under the circumstances the N. A. A. C. P. reiterates its statement that it can have nothing whatsoever to do with any defense organized by or in connection with Communists or the International Labor Defense.

THE CONDEMNED NINE

Indianapolis Recorder 5-9-31

Down in Scottsboro, Ala., nine Negro youths face horrible death from a menacing mob or legal lynching in the electric chair. The youngest of the condemned boys is only 14 years old, the oldest is 20. They were sentenced to die next month on a frame-up charge of having "forcefully" ravaged two white girls.

Newspaper dispatches told of how the court room was packed with a narmy of vengeance seeking mob bosses, landlords and illiterate farmers. The sole object was to intimidate the judge into denying to these boys their rightful share of justice. To all appearances it had its effect. It is clear that the youths, shorn as they were of the least bit of honest legal representation, did not receive a square deal. The concensus of trained public opinion is that they were rail-roaded to the electric chair. In an atmosphere charged with the worst element of narrow race prejudice, the already adverse sentiment against the prisoners was heightened by the hideousness of the trumped up rape charge fastened against the defenseless youths. We are all quite familiar with the barbarous system of the southland especially when applied to its Negro citizens. Alabama is in the very belly of the south and therefore saturated with a deep-seated contempt for the best rights of our group. Evidence of the truth of this is revealed in the wholesale legal murder sentence just meted out to these youths by one of its Negro hating officials.

A recent statement accredited to the sergeant of the guard used as a fake gesture of "protection" for the youths contained the brutally treacherous assertion that "the niggers should be lynched." The entire detachment of guardsmen, investigation shows, openly favors the lynch mob. The condemned youths are in a predicament that is disgracefully hopeless. Every step should be enlisted in support of efforts now being put forth by a number of reputable organizations to save the lives of these boys. The youths should be given the fair and impartial trial they did not receive.

Birmingham [illegible] News
Wednesday, May 20, 1931

HEARING PUT OFF IN NEGROES' CASE

SCOTTSBORO.—(AP)—Hearing of the motion for appeal of sentence for nine negroes convicted for assault on two girls near here was postponed Wednesday until June 5. The action was due to illness in the family of Judge Hawkins. The negroes were sentenced to death for the alleged attack which took place in a gondola coupled to a moving freight train near this city.

Defense of the negroes is divided. The Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance ,negro organization of Chattanooga, the home city of the youths, originally retained Attorney Steve R. Roddy. Then the Internatitonal Labor Defense entered the case, retaining George W. Chamblee, Chattanooga, and conducting demonstrations in the East with Ada Wright, mother of two of the condemned negroes.

Roddy said in Chattanooga Tuesday night Chamblee was an "interloper" and the interest of the labor defense was merely to use the case for Communistic propaganda.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also has been making an investigation of the case and also is opposing the activity of the labor defense. |Lowell Wakefield, Southern representative of the labor defense, announced several weeks ago his organization was determined to make the case a "second Sacco-Vanzetti affair."

MONTGOMERY—(AP)—Gov. Miller Wednesday had added to his files on the Scottsboro case the letter of protest on death sentences for eight negro youths for an alleged attack on two girls near Scottsboro from Theodore Drieser, author, as secretary of the Emergency Scottsboro Defense of the International Labor Defense.

The letter recited an account of the trial and alleged the youths were not given competent legal defense and that all steadfastly maintained their innocence. In addition to Drieser, Lincoln Steffens and others signed the letter.

Sumter, S. C., Item
Wednesday, May 20, 1931

COMMUNISTIC PROPAGANDA IN ALABAMA

International Organization is Meddling With Alabama Rape Case in Order to Stir up Race Feeling

Scottsboro, Ala., May 20—(AP)—The legal battle to save eight negro youths from electrocution for an alleged attack on two white girl "hoboes" aboard a freight train was launched here today with motion for a new trial set down for hearing.

Defense of the negroes is divided. The Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, a negro organization of Chattanooga, the home city of the youths, originally retained Attorney Steve R. Roddy. Then the International Labor defense entered the case, retaining George W. Chamlee, of Chattanooga, and conducting demonstrations in the east with Ada Wright, mother of two of the condemned negroes.

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Lynchings-1931
&
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

Bar Association In Uproar As Scottsboro 'Justice' Is Discussed

Courier

Pittsburgh Pa

Section of Resolution Praising I. L. D. Voted Down After Argument—Doctors and Preachers Scored—Darrow Says Courts Unfair to Negro.

8-15-31

By FLOYD J. CALVIN
(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

CLEVELAND, O., Aug. 13—With a sharp attack on doctors and preachers for not steering more legal business to Negro lawyers, and with the final adoption of a resolution condemning the gross miscarriage of justice in the Scottsboro case after a debate of one hour and fifteen minutes, and voting down the section praising the International Labor Defense and requesting the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to co-operate with that body in defending the nine condemned Scottsboro boys, the seventh annual meeting of the National Bar Association closed at the Western Reserve Republican Club, 2164 E. 55th street, after a two-day meet.

"It has been brought to our attention," reads the resolution adopted unanimously censuring doctors and preachers, "by the delegates from every section of the country, that many Negro ministers and doctors, by reason of their peculiar relation to the Negro communicant and patient, have the opportunity to direct most of the legal business to the Negro lawyer, but instead of directing it to the Negro lawyer, they prevail upon and assist Negroes in giving their business to the white lawyer. We therefore recommend that the National Bar Association conduct a campaign through the press, by direct resolutions to general conferences, church conventions, bishops, presiding elders, moderators and other influential churchmen, and to the National Medical Associations, hospitals, clinics and local medical associations, condemning this unworthy and sinister practice."

As the resolution was read there was some uneasiness evident among the delegates. Speaking on unreadiness, several lawyers urged that the resolution be amended in its original form to read that "many" ministers, and not "ministers," some holding that much of their legal practice came through churches and they had found their ministers ready and willing to co-operate with them. Selmo C. Glenn, chairman of the committee, argued that it was the consensus of opinion of the committee that "all" Negro ministers should be criticized, as enough were guilty to warrant criticizing all. The amendment was carried.

The question that held up proceedings for more than an hour in heated debate was the "Scottsboro res

One of the Commonest

the I. L. D., and William L. Patterson." Louis Brodsky, attorney for son, also an attorney for that organization, were present. Brodsky addressed the lawyers at their morning session and attacked the N. A. A. C. P. He read what was said to be a transcript from the record of the Scottsboro trial to show that Stephen Roddy, later said to have been employed as counsel by the N. A. A. C. P., did not represent the boys. Several lawyers resented Brodsky's remarks, and his speech resulted in a resolution that hereafter no speaker be allowed the floor to talk on extraneous subjects. When the Scottsboro resolution was read in its original form it was to the effect that the I. L. D. be thanked for its work in the Scottsboro case, and that the N. A. A. C. P. be requested to cooperate with the I. L. D. Immediately about ten lawyers leaped to their feet, but Raymond Pace Alexander, the president, recognized Perry Jackson of Cleveland, who moved that the resolution be rejected. A second was quickly heard, then speeches began on unreadiness. First the speeches were limited to five minutes, then to three minutes, then to one minute, and finally to ten seconds. Before the first motion came to a vote, a substitute motion was offered to send the resolution back to the committee for re-wording. F. B. Ransom and Judge James A. Cobb, both board members of the N. A. A. C. P., denounced the I. L. D. and urged that the motion to send the resolution back be carried. William L. Patterson, although not a member of the association, but a member of the bar, was allowed to plead for passage of the resolution. Brodsky was absent. Several lawyers spoke for the I. L. D., urging that the association thank them, but that the N. A. A. C. P. be not requested to co-operate with them. Richard Evans of Texas said he favored any organization that would fight for Negro rights, regardless of who or what it was. Herman Moore of Chicago could see no reason why the I. L. D. should not be thanked. The motion to send the resolution back to committee was lost, on a standing vote, by five. Then came the vote to reject. That was lost by three votes. The chairman then threw up his hands and in desperation asked: "Well, what shall w[illegible]? You won't send it back, and [illegible] won't reject it." A new motion was made to read and adopt the resolution by sections. That was carried. Then the secretary of the committee read:

"Whereas, in Scottsboro, Ala., nine Negro boys face the electric chair after a farcial trial attended by vicious mob demonstrations and open race prejudice, now therefore, be it resolved that we protest against this travesty on justice."

That part was carried unanimously. Then, after a plea from R. L. Brokenburr of Indianapolis, the second part was changed to read: "Be it further resolved that we approve of the lawful efforts of all organizations and their lawyers to reserve the verdict of conviction and to obtain new trials for the defendants." The word "lawful" was inserted by Mr. Brokenburr after the delegates did not object to the other changes. That was regarded as a blow to the I. L. D. as it had been characterized as "unlawful" from the floor.

The meeting opened Thursday morning with the president, Mr. Alexander, of Philadelphia, in the chair. Mayor John D. Marshall and Attorney Glenn, general chairman of the convention committee and Mrs. Louise Pridgeon, president of the Harlan Law Club, delivered addresses of welcome. Claybore George welcomed the delegates on behalf of the City Council. President Alexander deliveerd his annual address, in which he mentioned the encroachment of non-legal influences on the lawyer's profession.

The afternoon was devoted to a visit to the Cuyahoga County Court House, where the delegation visited the room of Chief Justice Homer G. Powell of the common pleas court, Judge Samuel H. Silbert of the domestic relations branch of the court, and Appeals Judge Manuel Levine of the Court of Appeals. In each chamber the judge delivered a short address and members of the association responded.

Thursday evening at St. John A. M. E. Church, 40th and Central avenue, Clarence Darrow was the principle speaker. Judge James A. Cobb addressed the audience before Darrow. Mr. Darrow declared in a speech of more than an hour, that the courts are unfair to the Negro, and that the Negro suffers because of his color. He said the only remedy is to use the ballot more effectively in getting more Negroes on the bench and in Congress.

On Friday morning learned papers were read by Alexander H. Martin, Charles H. Houston of the Howard Law School, Herman E. Moore and John P. Green, former state senator. M. Dantes Bellegarde, Haitian minister, sent a letter of greetings and of regret that he could not be present.

The next meeting will be held in Indianapolis. New officers are Jesse S. Heslip, Toledo, president; Euclid Taylor, Chicago; E. Washington Rhodes, Philadelphia and Josiah F Henry, Baltimore; vice presidents Miss Ollie M. Cooper, Washington assistant secretary, Richard Evans Texas, treasurer. Regional directors are Leland S. Hawkins, San Francisco; Glesner Fowler, Minneapolis; Sidney Redmond, St. Louis; Charles E. Robinson, Washington; W. H. Haynes, Chicago; R. McCants Andrews, Durham. George Lawrence Chicago, remains as secretary.

DOTHAN, ALA.
EAGLE

AUG 7 1931

THANK THE FOOLS AND THE MEDDLERS OUTSIDE OF THE STATE

The Negro who held up three prominent Birmingham girls and after keeping them captives for four hours, killed one, critically wounded another and shot the third, told the girls, among other things, that he "blamed the white race for making my race what it is today."

Let Alabamians thank the Communists and radical agitators for this Negro's attitude. They are the ones who have libelled and outraged Alabama, and stirred strife between the two races because of the conviction of the eight Negroes at Scottsboro. And while Alabamians pay their respects to these cranks, let them also pay their respects to Arthur Brisbane, Sinclair Lewis, Theodore Dreiser, Lady Astor, Clarence Darrow and Einstein. They, too, have served to add fuel to the fire.

As a result of this idiotic and wholly uncalled for agitation it is significant to note that a 16-year-old Negro dragged an 11-year-old white girl into a corn field near Hayneville Wednesday afternoon and attempted to assault her, and was promptly lynched.

For years Alabama's record in the matter of mob violence has been admirable—for several years it was entirely unspotted. The Eagle, with other Alabama newspapers, has unequivocally opposed the mob spirit. But we frankly recognize a simple and fundamental truth of human nature: The white people of this State will not tolerate criminal assault upon its womanhood. The penalty is death, preferably by legal and orderly trial as in the case at Scottsboro. But if the foolish blacks are to be agitated and misled by irresponsible idiots in Germany and literary meddlers in this country, then much of the blame must be laid at their door when a mob takes the law into its own hands.

3359

GREENVILE, S. C.
NEWS

AUG 16 1931

World Wide Interest Now Centers On Eight Alabama Negroes Sentenced To Die

Blacks Charged With Assault On Two White Girl Train Hoboes

APPEALS FROM ABROAD

By E. M. HENDERSON
(Central Press Correspondent)

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 15.—The fate of the eight negro youths convicted and sentenced to death, at Scottsboro, Ala., on charges of criminally assaulting two young white women in March, 1931, still is pending in the courts, and does not rest in the hands of Governor B. M. Miller, as protestants over the world seem to think.

Appeals have been taken to the supreme court of Alabama, and these appeals now are pending. Therefore, the cases are not before the governor at the present time.

It was alleged that the negroes assaulted the two girls on a freight train as it passed through Jackson county.

The supreme court is in recess until October. Call of the division in which appealed cases from Jackson county are included will not take place until December, so that it may be January before the Scottsboro appeals are acted upon.

It is possible, but not considered probable, that the state attorney general, Thomas Knight, may see fit to ask the court to move these cases up on the docket, due to the widespread interest in their disposition.

Contrary to belief, the eight Scottsboro defendants who now are confined to Kilby prison, are not there on commitments for execution of death sentence. These commitments were automatically suspended pending action of the supreme court on the appeals. The negroes are at Kilby prison for safe keeping, on an order issued by Judge A. E. Hawkins, of Jackson county, and carried out by the Jackson county sheriff, M. L. Wann

MANY MESSAGES

The governor has received scores of communications—both letters and telegrams—demanding the unconditional release of the eight negroes, who were sentenced to death on April 6.

The International Labor Defense, said in many quarters to have close affiliations with the Communistic propagandists in the United States, represents the organized effort to save the lives of the negroes.

George Chamblee, of Chattanooga, Tenn., former attorney general of that state, is reputed to be principal counsel for the International Labor Defense in these cases.

Protests have been received from as far away as Switzerland. Germany is represented, as well as Cuba, Canada and a number of South American countries.

Press reports tell of protest meetings in foreign countries, particularly Germany.

The most notable name appearing upon a protest from abroad is that of Prof. Albert Einstein, famous German savant and originator of the theory of relativity. The names of Thomas Mann, Kaethe Kollwitz and Alfons Goldschmidt also were signed to the message.

These men are said to form a committee in support of that organized under the name National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, which has had the support of Theodore Dreiser and other nationally known literary figures in the United States.

The following facts developed by newspaper investigators:

On the afternoon of Wednesday March 25, 1931, about a dozen negroes engaged in a fight with about six white boys on a freight train near Stevenson, Ala., in Jackson county.

All except one of the white boys were thrown from the train or jumped from the train when the negroes showed weapons.

At Paint Rock, Ala., 50 miles from Stevenson, but still in Jackson county, nine negroes were arrested by a posse that had been assembled when some of the white boys reported the fight at Stevenson.

NO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

Somewhere between Stevenson and Paint Rock, the two girls allegedly were attacked. No negro has confessed any part in the attack as far as it concerns himself.

The negroes, the white youths and the two girls were all hoboes. The negroes are all young, but there is a dispute as to whether the ages given at the trial, ranging from 14 to 21, are correct.

One girl gave her age as 21, and admitted she had been married twice. The other gave her age as 17. The first husband of one is dead and she is separated from the second one.

Both girls live in poor mill sections of Huntsville, Ala. They testified at the negroes' trial that they had been to Chattanooga looking for work. At the trial both said they had gone to only one mill in Chattanooga seeking jobs.

One girl is known to the police of Huntsville through minor offenses.

Eleven officers and 107 enlisted men of the Alabama national guard were stationed around the courthouse with tear bombs and machine guns and ordinary arms during the trial.

Upon arraignment of the negroes, Judge Hawkins appointed all the members of the Scottsboro bar, with the exception of those already interested in the case, as counsel for the negroes. Only one Scottsboro attorney participated to any degree in the case, Milo Moody.

At the opening of the trial Stephen Roddy, of Chattanooga, appeared as representative, he said, of interested persons. Later he was employed by the Interdenominational Alliance of Chattanooga. Following the conviction other attorneys appeared, employed by or getting pay from the International Labor Defense. Money for defense of the negroes has been raised in the north. At Scottsboro a purse was made up to employ special counsel to assist in the prosecution, and the firm of Proctor and Snodgrass, a leading law firm of Scottsboro, was engaged.

ADDITIONAL BRIEFS

Judge Hawkins, on June 5, allowed both prosecution and defense 10 more days in which to file affidavits and additional briefs prior to handing down a decision of retrial petitions.

At this time defense attorneys filed affidavits tending to show the girls were of loose character and had visited in Chattanooga in 1929 and 1930 and there consorted with negroes.

John K. Thompson, prosecuting attorney, filed counter affidavits signed by T. B. Reynolds, superintendent; W. M. Willman, secretary and treasurer, and J. V. Pollard, paymaster of the Marion mills, that one girl was employed there day by day during the time the defense charged she was in Chattanooga.

Judge Hawkins later refused a retrial and defense attorneys appealed to the supreme court.

Call 8-8-31

Kansas City Mo.

DEVELOPMENTS AT SCOTTSBORO

Now that world-wide demand is being made upon it for justice to the eight Negro boys, Alabama declares vehemently that the trial in which they were condemned to die was in strict accordance with the law. It defends its haste on the ground that the charge was unusually vicious. But it offers no explanation for the presence of the mob which surrounded the court and undoubtedly influenced the jury in its decision. It is hard to believe that Alabama is as high-minded as it professes. This one thing we know,—whether these boys escape death or not, the world's horror at their fate will save many a life in southern states where similar trial methods prevail. As usual, all things work together for good.

The existence of peonage, that enforced and unpaid labor system which keeps Negroes in virtual slavery in certain states, is a matter of common knowledge, proved time and again. It has the support of the law wherever prison labor is sold to bidders and where store-keepers exchange goods for farm produce, with the storekeepers' bookkeeping the reckoning taken by the courts. But it is slavery and being that, is repugnant to humanity and justice. Here Providence takes a hand. Alabama and states like it have carried on peonage ever since reconstruction and entrenched by custom and law as it is, they would continue to carry it on. But they overreach themselves. This Scottsboro case with its bloody accompaniment gets attention and while the world is looking, Negroes make one of their many piteous appeals for a man's chance to live. Alabama tries to cover up by saying they are incited to protest by communists. And were it not for the fact that all it does is now under observation, a direct result of its injustice to the eight condemned Negro boys, it might call this a "race riot" as other protests were called and crush it with the militia. The "race riots" of Elaine

Arkansas are the classic example of the methods by which southern states maintain peonage.

Providence has its way in the end. Injustice, harbored and excused when small, sooner or later overlaps itself. There is no connection in logic between a group of Negro boys and white boys and girls riding a freight train, and the southern custom of stripping Negro labor of all except bare existence. But Providence made them get attention at the same time

and now the property owning class of whites are going to pay the penalty. Men ought to be willing, but willing or not, right will prevail.

Lynchings. 1931
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3360

Rocky Mount [illegible] Telegram
Saturday, May 23, 1931

Negro Ministers Oppose Labor Organization's Defense Effort

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 23. (AP)—The City Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance of Negro Divines today broadcast a denunciation of the Internatiola Labor Defense for its activity on behalf of eight Negro youths under death sentence for purported attack of two white girl hoboes aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala.

At the same time S. R. Roddy, white attorney employed by the alliance in the attack case, claimed he had received mysterious warnings to "get out," and his wife had been telephoned several times that he would be "put on the spot" if he continued representing the alliance.

The statement of the ministers said the Labor Defense interest in the Scottsboro case is "mainly for the purpose of drawing Negroes of the South into the Communist organization, and if the movement is successful it will tear the South asunder and destroy the peace and harmony existing for many years."

Roddy has issued several statements against the Labor Defense for its alleged Communist propaganda.

Hearing of a motion for a new trial of the Negroes is set down in Scottsboro for June 5. Roddy was attorney for the Negroes in their original trial. The Labor Defense has charged that his legal efforts were inadequate and lukewarm, that the Negroes are guilty of nothing more than "bumming" on the same freight train where the white girls with a group of white youths were "hoboing," and that the conviction for attack is a "frameup" and a "legal lynching" on the evidence of one girl of questionable reputation.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
Saturday, May 23, 1931

NEGRO MINISTERS OPPOSE DEFENSE

Group Denounces Labor Move For Taking Part In Negroes' Trial

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 23.—(AP)—The City Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance of Negro Divines today broadcast a denunciation of the International Labor Defense for its activity on behalf of eight negro youths under death sentence for purported attack of two white girl hoboes aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala.

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Report of Ministers

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Trial Set June 5

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MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER

MAY 20 1931

New Yorkers Call Scottsboro Trial Merely Another Form Of Lynching

Trial at Scottsboro, Ala., last March of eight negroes charged with criminally assaulting ~~two~~ young white women, is called "a lynching concealed in the forms of law," in a letter to Gov. Miller from the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, with headquarters in New York.

Across the top of the stationery used in the letter to the Governor, by the committee of which Theodore Dreiser is chairman and Lincoln Steffens is treasurer, is printed in heavy black type: "Emergency Scottsboro Defense,—" which gives rise to the inference that this committee may have other "causes" which it is agitating.

In the beginning, the communication says that members of the committee wish to register, "as Americans whose daily work puts them in contact with public events," their protest regarding the "recent event at Scottsboro, Alabama."

The letter then states: "It is doubtless already known to you that nine negro boys, two of them children of fourteen and all of them minors, were recently prosecuted on charges of criminal assault said to have been committed against two women riding a freight train in Jackson County," and that "eight are under death sentence." Interest has been aroused in many parts of the country, it is declared, as a result of the conditions under which the trials were held.

Long-Distance Description

The courthouse, it is added, was surrounded by 10,000 men, some reported to be armed and all hostile to the defendants, and "the trials were made to proceed in rapid succession bringing death verdicts for eight of the boys within a few hours." A brass band performed within the hearing of the courthouse, the letter continues, and cheering of the "hostile crowd" greeting the verdict of an earlier trial of two of the "negro boys" was heard by the jury sitting in the trial of another.

"Many sober-minded persons," the letter then declares, "are unable to see how the trial of these boys differed in any of the more important essentials from an outright lynching. The impression is inevitable that the reason for the extraordinary resemblance to an outright lynching in this case lies in the fact that the defendants are friendless negroes. When it is considered furthermore, that these are not men of age but boys of as little as fourteen years the picture in the public mind is an alarming one." In addition, it is declared that: "The impression become a deep conviction that even-handed justice has not prevailed."

Reference is then made to court records in the cases and to local newspapers, the charge being made that the negroes were not properly represented by lgal counsel at the trials. All of the defendants, it is insisted, steadfastly maintained their innocence.

Contradicting an earlier statement in the same communication, in which it was declared that death verdicts resulted for eight of the defendants within a few hours, it is recounted that "in four trials completed in three days, eight were convicted and sentenced to death," the other case resulting in a mistrial.

Regarding these trials, the letter continues: "Your own children, Gov. Miller, or the minor sons of any influential white family of Alabama, would not be submitted to this kind of 'justice' in an Alabama court, and no state in this Union has a right to speak of justice as long as the most friendless negro child, accused of a crime, receives less than the best defense that would be given its wealthiest white citizen."

Besides all of the foregoing, the letter to the Governor, in its concluding paragraphs, says:

Calls Convictions "a Shame"

"We, the undersigned, declare this conviction to be a shame to the whole American people, excepting only those who may have the courage now to speak and act to stay the crime before its consummation. We already observe that vast numbers of obscure working people, both negro and white, are stirring to protest this legal crime.

"These boys have had no friends, and no relatives other than penniless black mothers and fathers. But millions who resent this atrocity will become their friends to protest the crime committed against them.

"We join our voices to those who protest against the outrageous course of events in this Scottsboro case. We unhesitatingly support the growing movement among thoughtful citizens in defense of these boys, the effort to win a new trial and the release of the boys which has been undertaken by the International Labor Defense organization. Our sense of duty brings us to give our full endorsement to the call of that organization for a united front of all who are willing to join in a movement to save the lives and liberty of these victims of the most outrageous travesty of the present decade—a lynching concealed in the forms of law."

The letter is signed by Sylvia Fenningston, secretary of the committee. Above her signature are typed the names of the respective members, including those of Dreiser, Steffens, Edwin Dahlberg, Floyd Dell and John Dos Passos.

Protestants Misinformed

The misinformation dealt with in the quoted portions of the letter as well as those parts not quoted but referred to, is obvious to anyone who followed the course of the Scottsboro arrests and trials. Of all of the nine defendants only one was a minor. This exception is a negro youth of 17 years. A mistrial resulted in his case, and he is now in jail in Birmingham awaiting the time when he will face another Jackson County jury.

In each of the trials, the defendants were represented by competent counsel appointed by the court. A strong force of National Guardsmen, trained and equipped to perform any necessary service in preserving order, was on hand under orders issued by Gov. Miller, throughout the proceedings. There was no brass band in attendance, and the crowd created no disorder while the trials were in progress.

All of the negro defendants confessed complicity in the crime with which they were charged. Some placed the blame on their companions and their companions sought to place it on them. So much for the inference contained in one part of the letter to Gov. Miller, that the negroes arrested and subsequently tried, are not the guilty ones. In every instance, trials were conducted in a legal, dignified and orderly manner by the presiding judge, who in discharging his responsibility, performed his duty to the letter.

Last Saturday night, a press dispatch from New York brought the news that Communists had held a demonstration there that day in protest against the death sentences meted out to the eight negroes convicted at the Scottsboro trials. This demonstration began with speeches attacking the "framing of the youths at the instigation of the Southern bosses." The meeting was followed by a parade in which marched the mother of two of the negroes.

The same night the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, made public the letter which reached Gov. Miller's office yesterday, from that organization. The committee was being formed, it was stated, by a group of writers, artists "and others."

Miller Hasn't Read Letter

Late yesterday afternoon, Gov. Miller had not yet read the letter. He was asked concerning it at the time its forwarding was first reported. Stating it had not yet reached his attention, the Governor said he was receiving four or five telegrams a day, many of them insulting in tone. He was making no attempt to reply to any of them, he said, but was having them filed with other matters relating to the Scottsboro cases. It is presumed he will follow the same course of action as to the letter which reached his office yesterday.

The eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro and sentenced to death, are now confined at Kilby Penitentiary awaiting execution. All of the nine defendants tried were identified by their victims.

Hearing In 'Legal Mob' Trial Wed.

St. Louis Argus

5-15-31

St. Louis, Mo.

Motion For New Trial For Eight Boys Sentenced To Die In Alabama Is Postponed. Labor Body Backs Fight

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 4.—(ANP)—Action on the motion of a battery of lawyers, led by George W. Chamlee, Chattanooga, and provided by the International Labor Defense, for a new trial for the victims of the Scottsboro, Ala., legal massacre, was postponed until May 20 when the matter came up before in Scottsboro last Wednesday.

This was done in order to permit the state to file answers to the briefs submitted by the defense attorneys who set up that there were errors and prejudice in the previous trials.

The I. L. D. lawyers were successful in having the hearing removed from Scottsboro to Fort Payne in DeKalb County.

Protests Are Made

Nineteen southerners living in New York have telegraphed to Gov. B. M. Miller of Alabama urging a new trial for the eight youths condemned to die at Scottsboro, Alabama, after having been convicted of an attack on two white girl hoboes.

Signers of the appeal included Dr. W. Russell Bowie, rector of Grace Episcopal Church; Prof. George Mitchell of Columbia University; Prof. Lois Macdonald and Prof. William L. Nunn of New York University, and Margaret Flenniken of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Scottsboro Appeal Is Up Tomorrow

5-19-31

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., May 18.—(AP)—Motions for new trials for eight negroes sentenced to die in the electric chair for attacking two young white girls on a freight train near here last March 14, will be heard Wednesday by Judge A. E. Hawkins in Jackson Circuit Court.

C. A. Wann, clerk of the Circuit Court, today said the motions were originally set for hearing May 6 but passed upon motion of Stephen Roddy, of Chattanooga, and G. W. Chamblee, the negroes' attorneys, who filed amended motions then for new hearings.

The negroes who are in the death house of the State Penitentiary at Montgomery, were sentenced to death following their conviction in Jackson Circuit Court on charges of attacking the girls after throwing five white youths, companions off the train and holding two others at bay with pistols.

TO BE ELECTROCUTED

Ga.

This week at Elberton, Ga., amidst the glistening of bayonets, the tread of military surrounded by an atmosphere of hatred and resentment with a complete obliteration of the pulse of justice, John Downer was tried for attacking a white woman and sentenced to be electrocuted. The three other accused will not be tried. The jury deliberated fifteen minutes. In an atmosphere of fairness, no doubt, the accused would have been given credit for the doubt that exists of his guilt, especially in considering the circumstances surrounding the case. The white woman was in an automobile in a lonely spot with a white man. It is charged that the accused forced the woman from the man and committed the crime. What kind of a white man can he be? The physician testified that the woman was attacked. This point will not be questioned. A court under less tension, with jurors unbiased and a lawyear of ability, what a different story would have been told; the result, Downer is guilty before the law and will have to pay the penalty. Mention is sometime made of legal lynching. Is this one of them? One of Georgia's leading lawyers made public statement in substantiation of it. He said that the "Negro didn't have a chance with the jury. I don't see much difference between that sort of lynching and mob lynching."—Savannah Tribune.

Mobile Negro Will Be Tried June 10 For Attack

Advertiser

MOBILE, ALA., June 5.—(AP)—Charles Williams, a negro indicted for a statutory offense, with a six-year-old Mobile school girl as his alleged victim, was returned here today form the Camp Kilby State prison and arraigned in the Circuit Court and his hearing set for June 10.

6-6-31

The courtroom was cleared of spectators on orders of Judge C. A. Grayson and extra police called in to protect the negro.

Montgomery!

The county jail was also closed to all visitors and an extra guard added. Williams entered a plea of not guilty and the court appointed attorneys to defend him.

On account of the seriousness of the alleged crime the grand jury that indicted the negro was advanced a month.

Says Elberton Trial Was in Every Way Fair

Editor Constitution: I am glad that Judge Orville Park has corrected what no doubt was an unintentional injustice to Elbert county.

Judge B. T. Mosley, who happens to be from Madison county and whom I have known all my life, certainly did nothing to be pronounced judicial lynching, nor did the grand jury of Elbert county who returned the indictment, nor the jury who convicted the prisoner, Charles Downer.

6-7-31

It was as fair a trial as has ever been in any court. Judge Mosley, who is now getting old like a good many of us, certainly deserves no such criticism. True, he hasn't been on the bench very long, but if there was ever a judge ripened up to the position he now holds it is Judge Mosley. He had been urged for years and years, not only by the people of Madison county but by the people of the other counties in the circuit, to make the race for judge, but he had a lucrative practice and didn't care to go into politics, so when the lamented Judge Hodges died I went with a delegation from Madison county and we were met by a delegation from Oglethorpe county to ask the governor to appoint him judge. The governor had known Judge Mosley all his life, they being near the same age, and the governor told me afterwards that it was the easiest appointment he ever had to make during the four years that he had been in office.

As to the people of Elbert county, they are as high-class citizens as can be found in any county in the whole state.

Atlanta Ga.

In my race for the senate last summer I went to every house in Elbert county and got acquainted with those that I had missed getting acquainted with in school and otherwise.

I know at least two-thirds of the grand jury that indicted this negro and I must say they were by far a better class of citizenry than the average grand jury. The foreman, Rev. J. C. West, is a Baptist minister, and I had the pleasure of hearing him talk at a fifth Sunday rally at Danielsville, Ga., yesterday afternoon. I happen to know the larger part of the jury that sat on the case and they are just about as high-class men as usually sit on the grand jury.

Somebody, I don't know who, employed two lawyers to help our solicitor-general, Hon. A. S. Skelton, prosecute the negro. Judge Mosley then appointed three lawyers to match these three in the defense. Could anything be fairer than this? Too, I happen to know personally the solicitor, as well as the other two lawyers appointed to help him and two of the lawyers appointed to defend him. The other lawyer's name is Smith. I don't happen to know him, but his name sounds mighty good to me.

J. O. M. SMITH,

Route 4, Commerce, Ga.

Gainesville, Fla. Sun
Saturday, May 23, 1931

Colored Ministers Chattanooga Warn Against Agitators

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 22.—(AP)—The Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, made up of negro ministers of this city, tonight issued a statement attacking the International Labor Defense for its action in the cases of eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro, Ala., of attacks on two white girls.

The alliance statement said the International Labor Defense was interested in the case mainly for the purpose of drawing negroes of the South into the Communist organization, and if the movement was successful it would "tear the South asunder and destroy the peace and harmony existing for many years."

Birmingham, Ala., Post
Saturday, June 6, 1931

JUSTICE ASKED IN ATTACK CASE

Racial Angle To Be Studied In Birmingham

By Charles Edmundson
Post Staff Correspondent

SCOTTSBORO—J. D. Burton, of Oakdale, Tenn., secretary of the Commission on Race Co-operation for Tennessee and Alabama, left here Friday afternoon for Birmingham to confer with members of the commission there regarding possible measures in the case of eight negroes sentenced to death here on rape charges.

"Additional evidence has been brought to light since the trial here in April which gives room for doubt as to the justice of the death sentences," Burton said.

Girls Made Charge

The negroes were sentenced for attacking two white girls on a freight train near here March 24.

Among the members of the commission in Birmingham whom Burton said he would see are Dr. Charles Clingman, rector of Episcopal Church of the Advent; Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, minister of Independent Presbyterian church; Dr. J. E. Dillard, pastor of Southside Baptist church; Rabbi Morris Newfield, of Temple Emanu-El; Dr. J. M. Broady, minister of Sixth Av. Presbyterian church, and Donald Comer, president of Avondale Mills.

The defence attorneys, Joseph Brodsky, former magistrate of New York City, and George W. Chamlee, a former Tennessee state's attorney, left here Friday night for Chattanooga, after being granted a continuance until June 13 for the hearing on a motion for a new trial.

Brodsky Warned

The only disturbance of the hearing Friday occurred when a mountaineer thrust a warning finger in Brodsky's face and told him to "get out of town before you are ridden out in a way that won't be healthy."

"Tell that to the judge," Brodsky retorted, as two husky bodyguards, former Chattanooga policemen, took their places at his side.

Brodsky and Chamlee are employed by the International Labor Defense.

Scottsboro, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, June 4, 1931

MOTHER APPEALS FOR NEGRO YOUTHS

BOSTON,—Ada Wright, mother of two of nine negroe youths under sentence of death in Alabama for allegedly attacking two white girls, took the stand at a protest meeting tonight and pleaded for the lives of the boys to whom she said had been both "mother and father." Her young daughter, Lucille, also stood before the gathering and called for action to save her two brothers.

The Rev. Samuel Weems of the North Cambridge Community church said the youths who range in age from 14 to 20, were convicted of a serious charge because they happened to be in the same freight car with two girls and because two white ~~men~~ trumped up the charges against them.

NEW YORK SUN JUN 10 1931

Dreiser Seeks New Trial For Alabama Negroes

Various persons more or less associated with radical thought or organizations have formed a committee whose purpose is to obtain a new trial for eight Negroes of Scottsboro, Ala., who were tried, convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair for an offense which frequently inspir~~es lynching~~. The title of this committee is "The National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners."

Theodore Dreiser, Lincoln Steffens, John Dos Passos, Suzanne La-Follette and others are members, and Mr. Dreiser has written a circular letter appealing to the public for funds to pay for lawyers, investigators, minutes and other expenses of an effort to secure a new trial. The Negroes are condemned to die on July 10, and the time is short for any activities in behalf of the condemned men.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3361

Nation Girds to Save 9 Boys From Chair

NEW YORK, May 15.—(Special.) — The latest developments in the fight to save the nine boys sentenced for rape on two white women in Alabama are the setting of a date for hearing of the motion for a new trial, and the changing of the scene for this hearing from Scottsboro to Fort Payne, Ala.

Defender

This action was taken late last week at the insistence of Gen. George Chamlee, attorney employed by the International Labor Defense council and at the request of the parents of two of the boys now awaiting execution.

5-16-'31

Led by the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the nation has aroused itself over this case as it has not been stirred for many years. In almost every city in the country large mass meetings are being held and the facts of this case are being made public. For the first time it is being made public that the women who accused these boys of raping them are of questionable character and that they were known to be such at the time they appeared in court to testify against the youths.

It is also becoming of general knowledge that the boys were taken into custody not because of any complaint originally filed by the women, but because they had succeeded in ejecting from the freight car in which they were hoboing their way from Chattanooga through Alabama a group of white men who boarded the train after they did and attempted to put them off. The white women were with the men who were forced off the train. They were traveling as hoboes and were dressed in overalls and other men's clothing, it has been revealed.

All of these facts are being broadcast by the International Labor Defense league, a militant organization composed of workers of both races and no effort is being made to gloss them over in any sense. This league in its sincerity, has drawn to its support some of the leading thinkers of the nation, among whom are Theodore Dreiser, noted novelist, and William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mothers of two of the boys being held in Alabama jails are now in the East making speeches in behalf of their sons. Mrs. Janie Patterson mother of 14-year-old Heywood Patterson, has spoken in Pennsylvania cities and in New York. Mrs. S. Wright, mother of Roy and Andy Wright, is now in Pittsburgh making personal appearances for her boys and will be sent from that city to Chicago to speak at a mass meeting to be held at Pilgrim Baptist church on May 22.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through Walter White, its executive secretary, is leaving no stone unturned. Although this organization is working independently of the I. L. D. and the L. F. N. R., all groups have the same goal and declare that they will not stop until justice has been done. Mr. White has let it be known that when the case comes up for hearing again there will be defending the boys the best criminal lawyer in Alabama and that the association is ready to employ Clarence Darrow of Chicago if that should become necessary.

Meanwhile, eight youths, all under 22 years of age, are awaiting execution in Kilby prison. They are: Charlie Weems and Ozie Powell, Atlanta; Eugene Williams, Clarence Norris and Andy and Roy Wright, Chattanooga; Olen Montgomery, Monroe, Ga., and Willie Robertson, Columbus, Ga. Haywood Patterson, the youngest of the group, was given a new trial upon the motion of Stephen Roddy, attorney retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and is in jail at Birmingham.

The boys were tried and convicted within four days at Scottsboro, Ala. The case opened April 12 and closed April 16. They are to be electrocuted on July 10, less than two months away, unless the agencies working on the case can get the courts of Alabama to take action.

Among the cities in which conferences have been called by the International Labor Defense are: New Orleans, May 17; Buffalo, May 23, Michigan Ave. Y. M. C. A.; Cleveland, May 29, Spiro hall, 3804 Scoville Ave.; Chicago, May 22, Pilgrim Baptist church; Milwaukee, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Gary, Ind., May 24; Pittsburgh, May 20; Philadelphia, May 25, and Minneapolis, May 21.

General Chamlee, one of the outstanding lawyers of Alabama, is now at Scottsboro, where he is checking up on the records of the trial at which the boys were sentenced. Others interested in the case are at Montgomery, while still others are getting evidence and preparing briefs which will be presented at Ft. Payne May 20, when the motion for new trials is heard.

WHITE RETURNS FROM ALABAMA TRIAL PROBE

Afro-American

Four Out of Eight Condemned Boys Sign Up for N.A.A.C.P. Aid.

5-16-31

2 UNDECIDED

Baltimore, Md

Association Not to Work with Reds.

NEW YORK—Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., returned this morning from a week's stay in Chattanooga, Birmingham, and a visit to Kilby Prison, near Montgomery, during which he talked with the eight boys condemned to death at Scottsboro, Ala., on April 9, on charges of assault upon two white girls in a freight train.

Four of the eight boys signed agreements requesting the N.A.A.C.P. to defend them. Two of the boys want N.A.A.C.P. legal defense, but wished to communicate with their parents to obtain their consent. The remaining two of the boys, bewildered by the trouble in which they find themselves, are undecided what they wish done. The ninth boy, in whose case there was a mistrial, is in prison in Birmingham, and has also been offered aid by the N.A.A.C.P.

Mr. White announced that the N.A.A.C.P. had retained one of the most eminent criminal lawyers in the state of Alabama, who will enter the case when arrangements have been completed with the boys and their parents. His name will be announced by that time. Two local attorneys at Chattanooga and Scottsboro, Messrs. Stephen R. Roddy and Milo Moody, are now doing the necessary detail work under the direction of the N.A.A.C.P. A retainer fee has already been paid these two attorneys. All briefs and motions, said Mr. White, would be gone over by the National Legal Committee of the N.A.A.C.P. and by Nathan R. Margold, celebrated constitutional authority recently retained by the N.A.A.C.P.

Humble Folk

Mr. White said:

"It should be remembered that the boys and their parents are humble folk and have had few opportunities for knowledge. They have been confused by the conflicting statements made to them. The Communists and the International Labor Defense have immensely complicated and intensified the difficulty of defending these boys. There is no objection to Communists organizing defense or aiding in the defense of the boys, were such defense effective and sincere.

"But the intemperate statements of the Communists, the threatening telegrams sent to the sheriff and the governor have merely served to intensify the already inflamed sentiment in Alabama. Communist sympathizers actually sent telegrams to the sheriff and governor demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the boys, a thing which neither was empowered by law to do. The sheriff at Birmingham is quoted as saying that were he to give to the press the telegrams he received from Communists the strong Birmingham jail would not keep out a mob for two hours.

"The consensus of opinion among intelligent white and colored people who hope for new trial and release of the boys, is that if the Communist tactics are continued they will only seriously prejudice further attempts to save the boys.

Boys Innocent

"The N.A.A.C.P. entertains no doubt of the boys' innocence of the rape charged. The N.A.A.C.P. believes in acting effectively and striking hard. But it cannot in any way co-operate with the Communists who have vilified the N.A.A.C.P., accused it in documents submitted for the signature of the boys' parents of being traitorous, and have stopped at nothing in their efforts to exclude the N.A.A.C.P. from the case, then proceeding to charge the N.A.A.C.P. with failure to co-operate.

"The same attitude has been taken by Communists toward the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance and other groups and individuals who do not submit to Communist dictation.

Social Disease

"After a thorough, careful and impartial investigation on the scene I am convinced that there are strong grounds for believing the boys now in jail at Kilby Prison, to be innocent of the crime charged. If any crime was committed, it was not the crime of rape. Among numerous other reasons for this belief, I learned at the prison that one of the boys is now and has been for eight months, suffering from two venereal diseases, and that it would have been impossible for him to have had relations with the white girls.

"Examination of the girls by two white physicians showed no signs of infection, which would have been present had this boy raped them. Nevertheless this boy was found guilty with the rest.

Hold Meeting Protesting Death Sentence of 8 in Ala

5-9-31

Pilgrim Baptist Church, 33rd and Indiana avenue, will be the scene, Sunday, at 3 p. m. of a monster mass meeting to protest the death sentence imposed upon eight Negro youths by a Scottsboro, Ala., court last week.

Seldom has any action aroused colored people of Chicago and throughout the country as has this sentence of death for these boys, which, according to many well informed agencies, will be nothing less than a legal lynching if permitted to be executed.

These boys who have been thus convicted of raping two white girls, who were hoboes on a freight train in Alabma, strongly deny that they raped or ever molested these two hobo girls in any way.

The meeting at Pilgrim Church Sunday, though focused directly on the case of these eight doomed boys, is preparing to go a long way further than these particular cases as it is felt that America's "Christianity and justice" camoflaged must be brought home to America itself, and a Nation wide vigilant movement started in an effort to make the United States live under its own constitution.

Among the powerful speakers on Sunday's program at Pilgrim Church will be the fearless, unconquerable champion of human rights, J. C. Austin, supported by others of exceptional ability and power of speech. A door offering of twenty five cents is requested, and funds will be provided to help in the defense of these helpless black boys.

Mininster Criticises William Pickens of the N. A. A. C. P. for Commending Communists in Scottsboro Case

Age 5-9-31

new york n.y.

Officials Declare Statement Was Not Opinion of Association; Lawyers Prepare to Take Fight to Higher Courts

Severely criticizing Dean William Pickens, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., for what he termed evident sympathy with the Communists, Rev. George W. Cotter, 57, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bessemer, Ala., told reporters for The New York Age, when he reached the city Thursday, April 30, that Negroes of the South do not want anything to do with Communists or their sympathizers.

want Communism of any form and are against any organization sympathizing with Communists, and when we read in the papers that Dean Pickens of the N. A. A. C. P had written the International Labor Defense and had praised them for their activity in Scottsboro in behalf of the eight boys, we were shocked to think that the N. A. A. C. P., or any of its officers, would show any kind of sympathy with the Communists," said Rev. Cotter.

Protested to Secretary White

He stated that he went to the national office of the N. A. A. C. P., at 69 Fifth avenue, Thursday, as soon as he arrived in town and protested to Walter White, secretary about the statement of Mr. Pickens. He said that Mr. White told him that any statement issued by an officer of the N. A. A. C. P., in reference to the Scottsboro case, commending the International Labor Defense or the Communist Party, was not the statement of the N. A. A. C. P., but was merely that officer's opinion.

"The Negroes of the South do not

In this connection a statement was issued by the N. A. A. C. P. on Friday, May 1, that the N. A. A. C. P had no connection whatsoever with the efforts of Communists groups or with the International Labor Defense in the case, and that it would have no such connection. Any statement to the contrary is issued without authority from the N. A. A. C.P. for which the Board of Directors alone, or the Board through the Secretary is empowered to speak."

GIRLS MADE NO CHARGE

Rev. Cotter told Age reporters that he had been in Scottsboro the day the men were arrested. He said that there were originally 14 Negro boys on the train, 5 white men and two white girls. He said that when the train drew into the terminal, the men and women were arrested on a charge of trespassing on the railroad property. Five of the colored boys escaped the arresting officers and fled from the town.

After the nine Negro boys were arrested, the minister said, a charge was placed against them for trying to commit rape upon the white girls, although neither the white girls nor the white men had made such a complaint against the Negroes. He said that the population of Scottsboro normally 2,000 of which 600 are Negroes, soon heard of the arrest of the Negro boys, and from towns nearby thousands of whites flocked to Scottsboro.

Jurors Shouted out Verdict

When the trial started before Hawkins, who Cotter characterized as a member of the Ku Klux Klan, and an ardent hater of Negroes, members of the Alabama National Guard were called out to prevent a lynching. The members of the jury, Rev. Cotter said, were determined to satisfy the mob and he said that before the verdict was announced by the jury in court, several members of the jury rushed to the courtrom windows and shouted to the mob "We have found the dam niggers guilty an dthey will be eloctrocuted."

The trial, Rev. Cotter said, was conducted without the slightest chance being given to the Negro boys. He said that the white girls never testified nor did the white men testify, and that after the trial they were dismissed and told to leave the town.

Hitch Hiked to New York

With so many organizations interested, and with the Communists thying to make capital of the trial to enlist Negroes into their organization, Rev. Cotter said that he determined to come to New York to find out what the N. A. A. C. P. would do about the matter. Accordingly, and being without funds, Rev. Cotter said he started out from Scottsboro on April 2, and hitched hiked all the way to New York, reaching here on Thursday, April 30.

In a release dated May 1, the N. A. A. C. P. announced that an attack upon the conviction and sentencing to death of the 8 Negro boys in Scottsboro, Ala., charged with an alleged attack of two white girls, will be launched by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored of Colored People, on several grounds,, one of which is that the first trial was not by due process of law, and was dictated by mob sentiment prevailing in the community before and during the trial.

A Precedent Is Seen

A precedent is seen by attorneys for the N. A. A. C. P. in the decision won before the United States Supreme Court in the case of the Arkansas peons, (Moore v. Dempsey et al, 261 U. S, 86) where the Supreme Court reversed the convictions, with death sentences, of six men, on the ground that although the legal forms had been observed, a mob had dictated the verdicts.

Representatives of the N. A. A. C. P. Branches near Scottsboro, in Chattanooga and other adjacent points are making connections which will lead to as strong legal defense as possible for the convicted boys.

The following statement was issued by Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary:

"The N. A. A. C. P., contrary to malicious and untruthful reports, entered these cases from the very beginning. It did so with one paramount motive: to save the lives of the condemned boys and to procure for them what they had not had, a fair trial. The N. A. A. C. P. regardless of misrepresentation of its motives and acts, will proceed in this case as it has in countless others, bringing to bear the best legal experience at its command."

FIGHT TO SAVE EIGHT ALA. BOYS FROM DEATH BECOMES NAT'L ISSUE

Whip 5-16-31

Chicago Def.

International Labor Defens Attorneys Win First Move For New Trial; berals Seek To End Dispute O r Defense

The fight to save eight 't[illegible] age' youths who were sentenced to death in the electric chair last month when convicted in Scottsboro, Alabama, of a doubtful case of raping two white women, has grown to national proportions, and has enlisted the support and aid of liberal thinkers and organizations all over the country.

Men and women of both races, and from all walks of life, who are horrified at the threat of legally lynching eight boys, convicted by a jury and judge operating in the atmosphere of mob hatred, have rallied to the call of the N. A. A. C. P., the International Labor Defense League, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, and are giving their money and their moral support to the fight to gain a new and fair trial for the condemned men.

Noted Leaders Join

The center of the fight of a new trial is in New York City, where Oswald Garrison Villard, militant editor of The Nation, Dudley Fields Malone, famous criminal lawyer and liberal, Theodore Driser, outstanding novelist, Lincoln Steffens, outstanding editor and author, Suzanne LaFollette, editor of The New Freeman, Heywood Broun, liberal Socialist and journalist, and numerous heads of militant labor organizations have joined to stir up public opinion condeming the biased justice of the Alabama judge and to support the move for a new trial.

Dissention between the N. A. A. C. P. and the radical Labor Defense and Negro Rights leagues as to which should head up the fight, ended last week, when the convicted boys themselves designated which group they preferred to conduct their fight. Walter F. White secretary of the N. A. A. C. P went to Scottsboro, and was told by four of the boys that they wished to be defended by the association, while the other four have chosen the aid of the radical organizations. The N. A. A. C. P has chosen two southern white liberal lawyers, Stephen Roddy and Milo Moody, to conduct the local legal battle for a new trial, while Nathan R. Margold, noted constitutional authority, retained by the association, is going over the entire transcript of the trial procedure.

5-16-31

I. L. D. Wins Point

General George W. Chamlee and Joseph Brodsky, attorneys retained by the International Labor Defense League to conduct the defense of the condemned boys, forced two important points from the Scottsboro court last week when they won a change of venue, and a motion for a hearing for a new trial of the case, to be held May 20. The hearing will be held at Fort Payne, in order that it may be conducted at a distance from the mob feelings which at present dominate Scottsboro.

Efforts are being made by liberal leaders to effect a reconciliation between the N. A. A. C. P. forces and the radical groups in order that dissention and two separately conducted defense programs may not impair the chances of the eight condemned boys.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3362

PLEADS FOR FAIRER TREATMENT OF NEGRO BY DAILY NEWSPAPERS

Courier 10-31-31

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ohio Conference of Social Work Among Negroes Goes On Record As Favoring Employment of Colored Teachers.

WARREN, O., Oct. 29—The Ohio Conference on Social Work Among Negroes, a division of the Ohio Welfare Confereence, convened for two days in the Mayflower hotel, Akron, last week. The theme of the conference was, "Unemployment and its effect upon Negroes as indicated by broken homes, their need for material relief, and an increased crime rate." The speakers were Mrs. Drucilla Clay, Shoemaker Welfare Center, Cincinnati; Mrs. Helen Knight, Family Service Society, Akron, and L. M. Shaw, Director, Friendly Service Bureau, Columbus.

Mrs. Clay found broken homes to be a factor in from 10 to 25 per cent of the cases handled by relief agencies. One factor so often overlooked by the non-Negro social worker is that in so many of the cases the husband and father leaves home to look for work. A devotion to loved ones not comprehended by the white social worker makes it impossible for him to stay at home and see his family suffer; and so he leaves.

Mrs. Knight felt that while discrimination has affected many colored workers the major factor in their unemployment and need for relief is their employment in marginal occupations which not only cause them to be laid-off first but also keep them from saving any money during good times. She had noted some very encouraging signs in her work among Akron's Negro population especially the fact that 60 per cent of those who have held factory jobs for five years or more are buying homes, also, a marked 'clinging to standards" on the part of many who must receive relief. She has, however, observed a growing tension between the races, Communism appealing to the ignorant and a widespread resort to cheap gambling.

Mr. Shaw reported an increase in the number of Negroes arrested for economic crimes while in many cities the total arrests of Negroes have decreased. This he attributed largely to unemployment. He made an eloquent plea for fairer treatment of the Negro by the newspapers urging that they give publicity to both sides of the Negro's activity. He told of the service rendered by the Columbus papers last winter when feeling ran high against the amount of emergency work Negroes received last winter. They inserted the following statement without comment: "Negroes constitute 11.3 per cent of the population of Columbus. They are 37.6 per cent of the total unemployed population. 70 per cent of the total Negro population is unemployed." Following this most of the objection to the assistance being received by Negroes disappeared.

A very interesting and enthusiastic discussion followed these addresses. Among those participating were Dr. Detweiller, professor of sociology and economics, Dennison University; Miss Campbell, board of education, Cincinnati; J. M. Ragland, Negro Civic Welfare Association, Cincinnati; George W. Thompson, Association for Colored Community Work, Akron. Nirod Allen, Columbus Urban League and Dean E. Yarbrough, Warren Urban League presided at the various sessions. Most of the cities in Ohio with sizeable Negro populations were represented.

The Conference went on record as favoring the concentration of effort on the employment of Negro teachers in the public schools throughout the state upon the basis of complete equality with other races.

General Chamleee, I L D Lawyer Issues Statement on Darrow's Alleged Support of the NAACP

Liberator

New York, N.Y.

9-24-31

Chamlee Points Out That Move Is Another One to Knife Campaign by Use of Popular Name

The International Labor Defense releases for publication the attached statement of General George W. Chamlee, Chief Counsel for the defense in the case of the nine Scottsboro boys who are in the shadow of the electric chair. In releasing the statement, the I.L.D. wishes to state the following:

The N.A.A.C.P., utterly discredited among large sections of the Negro and white masses because of its criminal activities in endeavoring to split the movement in behalf of these boys, thereby making it easier for the legal lynchers of Alabama to accomplish their purpose, again makes a maneuver in this case. The announcement that the NAACP has engaged Clarence Darrow is only an attempt on the part of this organization to rehabilitate itself in the eyes of the Negro and white masses. These are the people who, by a series of criminal actions, have endeavored to aid the executioners of the Negroes in the south.

Aid Lynchers

Never in any case had such a campaign, calculated to disorganize and disintegrate the mass support in behalf of victims of ruling class vengeance, been waged as has been consistently carried on by the NAACP. The entire policy of the NAACP has been to try to persuade the defendants and their relatives and friends that they should not encourage any mass movement against lynch violence, but that they should rely solely upon the "sense of justice" and "fair play" as administered by the white ruling class courts of the south. Such advice, if carried out, would have aided the conspirators in carrying out the lynching in a quiet, legal manner, without mass protest, the ruling class of the south being only concerned about keeping the Negro masses in a perpetual state of terror, thereby preventing any unity of action with white workers in the industries or the further development of the agrarian movement against the big landowners.

Use Darrow's Name

During the time the NAACP was endeavoring to betray these boys it carried on a campaign to raise funds on the pretext that it was defending the cases. Always they have had to pretend to employ some lawyer or other to maintain this fiction and secure money for their reactionary organization. They have been compelled to drop one lawyer after another, until they have finally induced Clarence Darrow to permit his name to be used in connection with the case, according to press reports.

While unquestionably Darrow could contribute to the case and, as the ILD chief counsel says, his services will be welcome, nevertheless the I.L.D. must point out that Mr. Darrow would have rendered far greater service to the case had he entered at the beginning when requested by the I.L.D. to do so, thereby aiding in laying the basis for the appeal instead of waiting until the present moment when he merely appears in connection with the appeal to the higher court. While we are not on the basis of mere reports taking anything for granted, nevertheless we must warn him the NAACP is using his name for the purpose of continuing their disruptive tactics of endeavoring to split the forces in defense of the Scottsboro boys and make it easier for the lynch fiends to destroy their intended victims.

I. L. D. Will Fight

Mr. Darrow's whole experience in connection with labor cases must certainly have convinced him of the utter futility of relying on legality alone, from the time of his first big labor victory in the Meyer-Haywood-Pettibone case to the Grecco-Carillo case in New York. Every victory or partial victory won was the result of militant working class organizations carrying out widespread campaigns and bringing mass pressure to bear in behalf of the defendants. The Scottsboro case will be no exception.

Whether Mr. Darrow's coming into the case is a fact or not, it will not in any way affect the policy of the I. L. D, which will continue to expose the despicable maneuvers of the agents of the lynchers at the head of the N.A.A.C.P., and to mobilize the broadest masses in the United States and throughout the world in defense of the intended victims of Alabama lynch law.

ASKS NO FEE TO HELP

Courier

10-31-31

Celebrated Liberal Attorney Served With "Champion of Negro Rights" In Sweet Case.

NEW YORK, Oct. 29—Arthur Garfield Hays, one of the celebrated liberal attorneys of the country, has volunteered to enter the Scottsboro cases as associate counsel, giving his services without charge to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the defense of the eight boys sentenced to death.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Hays will act with Clarence Darrow, with whom he has served as battles, including the famous evolution trial in Tennessee.

In the celebrated Sweet case in Detroit, where the N. A. A. C. P. successfully championed a colored man's right to defend his home from mob segregation, Mr. Hays served with Mr. Darrow and the other counsel retained by the N. A. A. C. P.

Mr. Hays is the author of "Let Freedom Ring," a book telling of celebrated cases which involve the issue f civil liberty. He is one of the ounsel for the American Civil Librties Union.

With Mr. Hays in the Scottsboro ase, the N. A. A. C. P. will have one f the most formidable arrays of ounsel that could be obtained to deend the victims of Alabama race rejudice.

BELIEF PREVAILS THAT JUSTICE WILL BE GIVEN TO YOUTHS

Pittsburgh Courier

Courier Investigator Talks to State Officials and Chief At Kirby Prison—Discloses Interesting Facts.

10-17-31

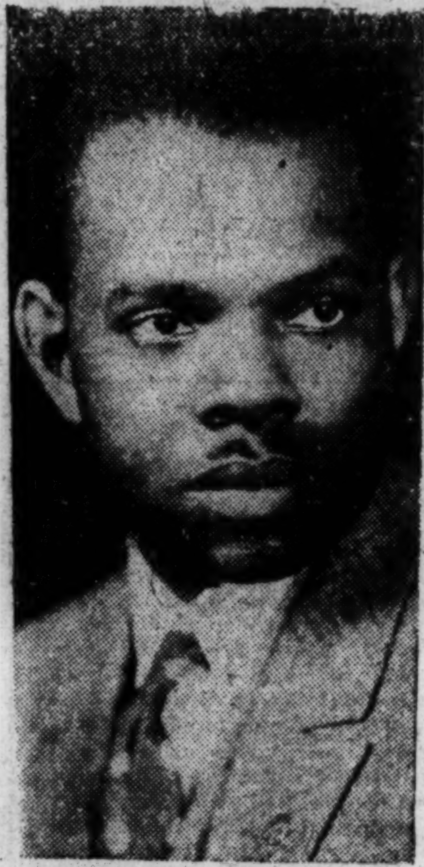
By FLOYD J. CALVIN
Special Feature Writer.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 15.—Prominent citizens of Alabama, while preferring not to be quoted because they could see no good purpose giving out an interview could serve, said they view as a promising sign the lull in criticism and publicity which has centered around the Scottsboro case for the past several months. The belief was expressed that Governor B. M. Miller has an open mind on the question, in spite of threats and intimidation from several sources, particularly outside the state, and that his long record as a jurist—17 years as judge of the Circuit Court of Wilcox County, and six years on the Supreme Court bench—give every encouragement that he will mete out strict justice if the cases finally come before him. The cases are now before the Supreme Court, and will either be confirmed or sent back to the circuit court for retrial.

While feeling out sentiment on the cases in Montgomery, and particularly around the capitol, this writer had ample opportunity to see the real temper of the state officials. Starting with Mr. Stewart, chief of the Prison Administration, Convict Department, who is responsible for the condemned boys at Kilby prison, said the boys were in a nice, clean, airy and modern jail, that under ordinary circumstances they would be in the county jail where they were first tried, pending their appeal, but in the interest of law and order they were removed to Kilby. He said they were ordinary looking boys, like those seen on the streets every day, and they were being shielded as much as possible from plain curiosity seekers who wanted to go out to the prison and peer at them. He said only attorneys or others working in behalf of the boys were allowed to see them. But with that ruling he said about 300 people had been given permission to see them, and that the boys had joined about every kind of organization under the sun.

While walking through the capitol the writer saw other officials, and while the Scottsboro case was not cussed with them, it could be seen e was no tension in official cir- r the cases.

INVESTIGATES



FLOYD J. CALVIN
Special feature writer of The Pittsburgh Courier, whose investigations in Alabama in connection with the Scottsboro case have revealed interesting disclosures.

Some of those interested in giving a correct background for this article escorted the writer through the capitol, up the winding stairs to the second floor, where both branches of the legislature meet, through the Supreme Court library, and into the Supreme Court chamber where the Scottsboro cases will be argued. At the top of the steps leading to the first floor of the capitol is a star marking the spot where Jeff Davis took the oath of office as president of the Confederacy. The circular interior stairway is regarded by architects as a marvel of design and construction because there are no beams supporting the stairs. In the chamber of the House oil paintings of historic Alabama characters were pointed out, and desks used by famous men were also pointed out. In the Senate chamber similar points of historic interest were shown. In the House chamber the ordinance was passed by which Alabama withdrew from the Union. A tablet on the wall commemorates the fact.

While it is not known just what Governor Miller plans to do about the Scottsboro cases, many people view as a hopeful sign the dying down of agitation on the case. Older citizens who have long been friends of law and order and justice to the Negro say it will be much easier for the state to give justice if it can do so without being threatened.

Darrow Enters Fight For Scottsboro Boys

Civil Liberties Quarterly

December 1931

Execution of the eight Negro boys convicted in Scottsboro, Ala., of raping two white girl hoboes on a freight train has been stayed by the filing of an appeal in the state supreme court. Affidavits supporting this appeal attest that deputy sheriffs third-degreed one of the Negroes in an attempt to force him to accuse the others; that the girls' character was bad; that they and the Negroes were not removed from the same car at the time of arrest as alleged by the prosecution; that the jurors in some of the trials were part of the mob before the courthouse during the trial of Norris and Weems, the first convicted.

100 Fifth Avenue
New York
N.Y.

Clarence Darrow has been retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to aid in arguing the appeal. Argument will be made Jan. 18, 1932.

Following a protest by the Civil Liberties Union, the Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution has published a correction of an editorial which asserted that the Union had demanded of Gov. Miller of Alabama that the Scottsboro defendants be retried "by a jury half whites and half Negroes." The Constitution explains that this erroneous statement was made in a circular "that seemed reliable."

Miss Hollace Ransdell's report on the Scottsboro case, made after an investigation by her for the A.C.L.U., is available in mimeograph form at $1 per copy.

Farm Named "Scottsboro."

Amsterdam News
12-5-31
New York N.Y.

A Soviet Russia collective farm has been named in honor of the eight Scottsboro boys under death sentence for alleged attacks upon two white girls, the International Labor Defense announced Monday.

UT THE SCOTTSBORO CAS

New York
11-28-31
New York
N.Y.

Langston Hughes, the poet and autho of a novel of Negro life, entitled "No Without Laughter," has a leading article in the literary magazine, Contempo, for December, in which he calls upon every Negro paper in America, to print the transcript of the trial of nine Negro youths at Scottsboro, Ala., if it can be done legally. His purpose is expressed, "so whites and blacks might see at a glance to what absurd farces an Alabama court can descend." It might be more to the purpose if such a transcript could be printed in the daily newspapers of largest circulation, both in the North and in the South, if it can be done legally.

A clear but succinct history of these cases in detail is printed in Harper's Magazine for December, written by Walter White, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In it is given an analysis of the part played by the Communists and the general significance attached to Communist propaganda among Negroes. In the view of some confusion that may still obtain in the minds of those who have not carefully followed these cases, this article will be extremely helpful in presenting the matter in its true light, and in aiding the efforts of the National Association in its struggle to secure a fair trial for these helpless youths.

Negro Wins Appeal On Death Sentence

New York [illegible]
11-28-31
New York
N.Y.

New Orleans, La.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals on November 20 [illegible] hearings in the case of John Downer, Georgia colored man under sentence of death, on his plea that he was hastily tried and convicted of criminal assault on a white woman while a mob threatened violence.

SOVIET CHILDREN WRITE TO SISTER OF SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Negro World
11-28-31
New York
N.Y.

Ella Lucille Wright, Andy and Roy Wright's kid sister who together with her mother is touring the country to develop the mass movement to obtain freedom for the Scottsboro boys, just received a letter from the Young Pioneers in Moscow, expressing the solidarity of the Soviet children in this fight. The letter comes in answer to one written to the Moscow Pioneers by Ella Lucille, and is signed by Harry Eisman, an American Pioneer who is now in the Soviet Union.

Lynchings - 1931
&
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3394

GAZETTE

Emporia, Kans.

MAR 28 1931

VIRTUE IN BOXCARS.

In Scottsboro, Alabama, the National Guard has been called out to defend nine Negroes charged with attacking two ~~white~~ ladies who were traveling across the state in a boxcar. Now that's the Southland for you. They lose all interest in the price of cotton where female virtue, no matter how questionable, is at stake.

With the noose and fagot the poor white trash of Dixie hope to make the country secure. In the future if a Southern lady wants to go on the bum and travel from town to town riding the rods, she will be secure from insulting winks and nudges from fellow bums, if they happen to be Negro bums.

So in case you are interested the boxcars of Dixie are now safe for ur mother, your wife or your ghter

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NEW YORK TIMES

APR 11 1931

CONDEMNED NEGROES RIOT IN ALABAMA JAIL

Eight Sentenced to Die For Attack on White Girls Are Subdued and Manacled.

GADSDEN, Ala, April 10 (AP).—Protesting against their sentences, eight Negroes condemned to death at Scottsboro yesterday for attacking two white girls rioted in the Etawah County jail today, but were subdued by guards, who placed them in irons.

The Negroes, who were returned here under military escort after being sentenced for attacking the girls traveling as hoboes, aboard a freight train, shouted demands for special food, beat on the cell bars and tore up the bedding.

Their shouts were heard some distance from the jail and Sheriff T. L. Griffin, who occupies an apartment on the lower floor of the jail, removed his family.

Sheriff Griffin appealed to military authorities for aid, and Colonel W. M. Thompson and Captain C. C. Whitehead went to the jail.

With sufficient guards to prevent an attempted break, the "bull pen," in which the Negroes were confined, was opened and guards handcuffed the prisoners in pairs.

Governor Miller at Montgomery today received protests in the case from the International Labor Defense in New York, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights of New York and the [redacted]alist League of the United States. All charged the Negroes "were railroaded." The Governor declined to comment.

STRUGGLE TO SAVE DOOMED YOUTHS IN ALABAMA RENEWED

Amsterdam News
4-29-31

Communists Riot in Harlem Streets After Protest Meeting—Mother Pleads for Son Here—N. A. A. C. P. Enters Fight

new york, n.y.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had its national legal committee busy yesterday devising means to save eight condemned youths from death in the electric chair in Alabama, while the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights were sponsoring a series of meetings at which the mother of one of the lads pleaded for the life of her son.

Meanwhile, police officials were seeking methods to prevent the recurrence of a Communist riot which turned Lenox avenue into a battlefield for thirty minutes Saturday. Radical heads felt the brunt of police clubs, and one patrolman was injured in the melee which raged from 140th street to 135th street.

The N. A. A. C. P. announced Saturday that it had engaged Stephen R. Roddy, white Chattanooga attorney, to frame the appeal for the lads who were sentenced to die at Scottsboro. Roddy was the original counsel for the boys.

Amsterdam News

A dispatch of the Associated Press on Friday stated that the youths, who are scheduled to die June 10, spurned the aid of the Communists. The International Labor Defense countered the next day with a statement assailing the dispatch as un-

true. The organization offered proof of the acceptance of its aid by presenting Mrs. Janie Patterson of Chattanoooga at a mass meeting Friday night at St. Luke's Hall, 125 West 130th street. 4-29-31

Mother Speaks Here.

The Tennessee woman, who is mother of Heywood Patterson, 17, one of the lads convicted of attacking two white "hobo" girls, will address the Bronx Women's Council this evening. She spoke Monday at the Lithuanian May Day Conference in Brooklyn.

The Labor Defense, said Claude Patterson, father of Heywood, Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of Roy Wright, 14, of Chattanooga, who will have a new trial in the Juvenile Court, and Mrs. Mamie Williams, mother of Eugene Williams, 19, of Chattanooga, went to the Birmingham jail Friday to interview the boys after sending the organization a telegram. This message accused the Birmingham Ministerial Alliance with forcing the boys to issue a statement repudiating the Labor Defense, and affirmed their faith in the radical body.

Yesterday the Labor Defense and the N. A. A. C. P., working independently, were planning to see that the case goes to the Alabama Supreme Court.

Five thousand persons jammed Lenox avenue here Saturday afternoon when a squad of twenty policemen from the West 136th street station halted the Communists' proposed march through the streets of Harlem after a fiery mass meeting at 140th street and Lenox avenue. Mrs Patterson was not at the meeting.

Radicals Stage Riot.

Frank Alexander, a slight youth in his twenties, harangued the 500 Communists to action. With [redacted] and banners denouncing Southern justice and calling for interracial solidarity among workers, the march began, with the paraders loudly singing revolutionary airs.

At 139th street and Lenox avenue Capt. Frank Brady, commander of the West 136th street station, lay in wait with ten patrolmen. The officers rushed the leaders and seized the banners.

The Communists resisted and the battle was on. When one radical went down under the club of Patrolman John Thorpe another Communist clubbed the officer with the standard of his banner. The sticks of three other officers laid the patrolman's assailant on the pavement.

Score Injured.

The radical march broke and Communists fled for street cars, friendly doorways and subway entrances. Although no Communists voluntarily applied for treatment at Harlem Hospital, it is known that perhaps a score were injured. Four men arrested in the riot were injured.

The demonstration had its aftermath in Night Court Saturday evening and in Heights Court Sunday morning. In the former tribunal Jack Speiser, 27, white, who said he was not a Communist and did not take part in the parade, was fined $5 for disorderly conduct. Speiser said he was a collector for the Madison Industrial Company.

Brought before Magistrate George B. DeLuca in Heights Court, three white Communists, John Pseronis, 34, no home; Philip Spector, 29, 841 Beck street, and Dimitris Paulis, 21, 204 West 130th street, were held in bail of $1,500 each on charges of suspected felonious assault. Thorpe was their accuser.

Eight hundred persons gathered at St. Luke's Hall Friday night to hear protests of the proposed electrocution made by Mrs. Patterson, Richard B. Moore, William L. Patterson and Clarence Hathaway, white. Mrs. Patterson said she would fight to the end to save her boy and the other youths.

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald
Wednesday, April 15, 1931

APPEAL IS PLANNED FOR EIGHT NEGROES

Attorneys Of International Labor Defense Interview Youths

Death sentences imposed upon eight negroes in connection with attacks on two Huntsville white girls, will be appealed by attorneys of the International Labor Defense, who interviewed the negroes Tuesday in county jail where they are being held for safekeeping. July 10 has been set as the date for electrocution of the negroes.

The attorneys, Allen Taub and Douglas McKenzie, of New York, came to Birmingham to act as defense counsel for the eight condemned negroes and Roy Wright, 14, negro, whose case was declared a mistrial at Scottsboro when the others were convicted.

Taub and McKenzie were permitted to confer with the condemned negroes several hours in jail here, preparatory to filing an appeal. Conviction of the negroes in Scottsboro followed their arrest on charges of attacking the Huntsville girls on a freight train, after having thrown their boy companions off the moving train.

3394

Start Fight to Save 8 Youths From Ala. Death Chair

Defender

BIRMINGHAM, May 1.—The retention of George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, former attorney general of Hamilton county and one of the ablest lawyers in the South, to carry the case of the "convicted" nine young men for "rape" by a Scottsboro, Ala., court recently, throws a new light on the whole matter. 5-2-31

Attorney Chamlee believes that the boys are wholly innocent. He believes that they were framed and that the Scottsboro trial was a reflection upon the processes of justice.

In reply to the hullabaloo heard among certain elements of whites in Alabama against the International Defense, which retained him, the great lawyer said: "Like other organizations, sometimes it is misrepresented, and that is to be expected sometimes."

Chicago

Your correspondent visited the young men in the Birmingham jail Tuesday and talked with eight of them. They declare that neither rape nor molestation of any kind was committed upon the two young white hobo girls. They further stated that the girls made no charge against them until forced to do so by white men in Scottsboro. If there is a retrial most likely the girls will repudiate all former testimony.

It is feared that the customary argument which breaks out in the South among the "leaders" when important matters come up affecting the Race will break out in Alabama. The "leaders" stood by and saw these boys railroaded without a word, but as soon as distant influences became indignant over the legal lynching they began the usual bickering over details.

In a meeting of the Baptist ministers conference here there was a clash between a representative of a labor organization and W. T. Atmore, a local preacher. Atmore said he didn't like the idea of anybody from New York or Chicago jumping on all the white folks of Alabama.

The International Labor Defense had asked for funds from the public. The preachers, thought that funds should come from the N. A. A. C. P.

Two members, J. W. Goodgame and J. H. L. Smith, urged "conservatism," hoping, they said, to enlist the influence of the leading men of Birmingham in the cause.

Birmingham News Asks Justice

The Birmingham Daily News, largest newspaper in Alabama, published a strong editorial in which it said that nothing short of justice must be done to these boys.

A visit by your correspondent to railroad officials, bankers and newspaper editors of Birmingham disclosed more real, active sentiment for the boys among the intelligent white people than among their own Race.

Alabama is now on trial and the state is determined to prove itself before the whole country as a state of law.

Because of the strange conduct of S. R. Roddy, who conducted the "defense" at Scottsboro, and two busy preachers, the I. L. D., through its local attorney, asked the parents to visit the boys in jail here. They found that Roddy had frightened them into repudiating the men most capable to undo before the supreme court what Roddy allowed to be done in Jackson county.

The parents of the boys then joined in the following statement:

We, Haywood Patterson, Andy Wright, Roy Wright and Eugene Williams, after a conference with our parents, Claude Patterson, Ada Wright and Mamie Williams, desire to reaffirm our written contract with the International Labor Defense to engage George W. Chamlee as chief counsel in our defense, and we, Ozzie Powell, Olin Montgomery, Clarence Norris, Willie Robertson and Charlie Weems, join with the above named defendants in ratifying our written statement to the International Labor Defense concerning the employment of counsel for us. A statement yesterday obtained from us by Steve Roddy and by W. M. James, L. P. Whitten and H. Terrell under circumstances we did not understand, indicated that we are not satisfied with the International Labor Defense. This statement was obtained without the consent and advice of our parents and we had no way of knowing what to do. We completely repudiate that statement and brand those who obtained it as betrayers of our cause.

Attorneys Sure of Victory

In addition to General Chamlee, chief counsel in this celebrated matter, three noted lawyers are in the case—Albert Rosenthal of Birmingham, Joseph Brodsky and Allen Taub of New York.

The lawyers are sure not only of a retrial but of the ultimate exoneration and freedom of the victims of mob justice.

A representative of the I. L. D., Lowell Wakefield, said:

Steps are being taken to demand a new trial for all nine defendants on the grounds of newly discovered evidence. If these motions are denied we are prepared to carry the case as far as the supreme court of the United States. In any event, a demand for Negro representation on the jury will be made. The presence of Negroes on the jury is, in our opinion, the only way to guarantee the nine boys their constitutional right to a trial by a jury of their peers.

The supreme court of the United States decided long ago that the Race ought to be on every jury which is trying a cause in which the Race is involved.

Pickins Backs I. L. D.

While the Race in Alabama is wrangling over who should handle the money in the appeal, the I. L. D. or the N. A. A. C. P., an official of the N. A. A. C. P. decided that, since it began the defense the Labor Defense should go through with it.

In a letter to the Daily Worker, the New York organ of the I. L. D., William Pickens, organizer of the N. A. A. C. P., writes:

This is one occasion for every Negro who has intelligence enough to read to send aid to you and the International Labor Defense.

The case promises to revolutionize public sentiment in Alabama on the attitude of the courts towards members of the Race accused of crime.

HELP FIGHT THE JUDICIAL LYNCHING OF 8 NEGRO BOYS IN ALABAMA

The Scottsboro, Alabama court some weeks ago railroaded eight Negro boys to a death sentence under a charge of rape of two white girls bumming their way on a freight train.

During the trial a mob of eight thousand men surrounded the court house swarming inside to capacity extent and demanding the life of the boys. Even if the jury had been inclined to consider the evidence and render a just verdict it was overawed by the presence of the mob and a fair and impartial trial and a just judgment was impossible.

Under those conditions the trial proceeded with lightning speed, the boys were convicted and sentence of death pronounced by a judge who approved of the presence of the hostile mob and the verdict of the jury or who was himself overawed by the mob. 5-16-31

Another boy only 14 years of age and under the law too young to be tried in that court was sent to the juvenile court for trial.

Baltimore, Md.

The N. A. A. C. P. has engaged counsel to fight for the lives of these boys and prevent the horror of the bloodiest judicial murder ever perpetrated in this country.

The work of the N. A. C. P. is made more difficult by the appearance of the International Labor Defense and Communists who by their intemperate and violent speech and silly threats are so intensely increasing the prejudice and hatred of the whites of Alabama that unless the Negroes of the country give prompt moral as well as financial support to the N. A. A. C. P. there is grave danger that this terrible miscarriage of justice cannot be righted.

A meeting of the local Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. in Baltimore has been called by President Clark for next Monday night. Every man and woman who is interested in halting the murder under the forms of law, of eight boys innocent of the charge for which they are now under the sentence of death should attend the meeting and be counted on the side of justice for these boys.

NEW YORK TIMES

APR 24 1931

CONDEMNED NEGROES SPURN 'COMMUNIST' AID

Eight Held in Alabama Denounce Labor Defense Group Which Proposed to Appeal Case.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 23 (AP).—Eight Negroes who have been sentenced to death for attacking two young white girls near Scottsboro on March 14 issued statements today denouncing the International Labor Defense and requesting "Communists to lay off."

The statements were made to pastors of Negro churches near and in Chattanooga, Tenn., and to Stephen Roody, Chattanooga lawyer, who defended them in their trials at Scottsboro. The Negroes have been in prison here since their conviction recently.

Two representatives of the labor defense interviewed them several days ago and issued a statement charging that they had been "framed from start to finish," and added that their cases would be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Mr. Roody, W. M. James, former truant officer of Chattanooga; the Rev. L. P. Whitten of Chattanooga and the Rev. H. C. Terrel of Birmingham were in conference with the Negroes for several hours today.

Reds and the N.A.A.C.P.

Communists have been thumbing their noses at the N.A.A.C.P. about the pending Scottsboro, Alabama, legal lynching.

Conviction of the nine boys for alleged rape of two white girl tramps in a freight car and their sentence, eight of them to death, provoked statements on both sides as to which organization was first to the rescue and which shall employ defense counsel for the boys and conduct their appeal for a new trial. 5-16-31

At present the controversy appears even. The mothers of four boys have chosen the N.A.A.C.P. and four others favor the Communists.

This is the sort of work that the N.A.A.C.P. has been doing for twenty years, and especially well in the Elaine, Arkansas, riot cases, the Sweet case in Detroit, and many others like them.

Baltimore, Md.

The Communists' International Labor Defense, a newer organization now enters the same field.

However, there need be no rivalry. Cases in which justice goes astray are far more numerous than any two or a dozen organizations can properly handle with funds at present available.

What is needed is a distribution of territory or a division of the field. Let the Reds take the North and the N.A.A.C.P. the South. Let the Reds take the criminal cases and the N.A.A.C.P. the civil cases.

The Negro doesn't get anywhere when his friends fall out and fight over him. What he wants is that his friends shall fight FOR him.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3395

Correspondence

The Nation

Alabama Justice

To the Editor of The Nation: 6-24-31

Sir: Readers of Mrs. Van Doren's excellent article about the unfortunate young Negroes condemned to death for alleged rape of two white girls in Alabama will be interested in the following illustration of how the mind of a jury in that State sometimes "works" (if that term may be used with accuracy).

New York

In Reed *vs.* State (20 Alabama Appellate Reports, 496; 1925) the Alabama Court of Appeals had up for review the case of a colored man and a white woman who had been tried jointly in Washington County Circuit Court for violation of the anti-miscegenation law. The proceedings and evidence as to both parties were identical. Nevertheless, the jury returned a verdict of guilty as to the Negro but failed to make any findings as to his white codefendant—a disposition which the trial judge concurred in by pronouncing judgment on the colored man only. Obviously prompted by the impulse of "commendable guardianship and abundant generosity" which "the dominant race manifests toward the inferior race," and "inspired by motives not only of fundamental justice but of sentiment engendered by the earlier legal dependence and subjection of the slave to the master" (Story *vs.* State, 178 Alabama Reports, 98, 103; 1912), the appellate court reversed the judgment of the trial court and remanded the case for a new trial. As a matter of law, declared the court, the Negro and the white woman must both be found guilty or both acquitted.

N. Y.

Vol 132. No 3442.

New York, June 4 — Harold Roland Shapiro

Advertiser 7-21-31

Montgomery, Ala.

Former Official Of Tennessee Here In Behalf Of 8 Negroes

Ex-Attorney General Sent To Defend Scottsboro Blacks By Labor Group

George Chamlee, of Chattanooga, Tenn., former Attorney General of Tennessee, and reputed principal counsel for the International Labor Defense on behalf of the eight negroes now under sentence of death for criminally assaulting two young white girls near Scottsboro, Ala., was here to see the condemned men yesterday.

He appeared at the capitol yesterday morning with a letter addressed to Warden George P. Walls, of Kilby Prison. This letter which was from Circuit Judge A. E. Hawkins, who presided at the [illegible] of the eight negroes at Scotts- [illegible] rer, Mr. Cham- [illegible] see the con- [illegible] being held [illegible] appeals in their cases are pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama.

After presenting this letter to State Board of Administration officials, and before going to the Prison, Mr. Chamlee stopped at the offices of the clerk of the Supreme Court and the Reporter of Decisions for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, where he made particular inquiry as to the form used in Alabama for the preparation of transcripts and bills of exceptions in appealed cases.

In the afternoon he proceeded to Kilby where he handed the letter from Judge Hawkins to Warden Walls. The Warden, who accompanied the visitor when he interviewed the eight condemned negroes, said Mr. Chamlee told them to be good prisoners and behave themselves; that he had seen their mothers; that he had appealed their cases and was looking out after their interests. To this admonition and information, he said, the negroes answered "Yes, sir"—that was all.

His Second Visit

It developed that this was Mr. Chamlee's second conference with his clients. On the occasion of his first visit some weeks ago, it appears, the mothers of several of the negroes were at the prison to see them, and advised them not to have anything to do with anybody else concerning their cases but Mr. Chamlee.

Yesterday, at the capitol, Mr. Chamlee told officials he was in Montgomery to see to it that the negroes received the benefit of their full legal rights. He did not say by what individual or organization he is employed, but it was learned that on the occasion of his first visit it was made known he was representing some "Defense" organization, which presumably is the so-called International Labor Defense, from various branches of which many telegrams and letters on behalf of the eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro, have been received at the Governor's office.

Further confirmation of the announcement that the communistic propaganda in which a number of negroes in Tallapoosa County were steeped by an organizer from Tennessee until the recent trouble there which nearly cost the life of the sheriff and caused the death of one negro, was precipitated, was pitched principally upon exhortations to protest against the Scottsboro sentences, is contained in a telegram received yesterday at the office of Gov. Miller, from Youngstown, Ohio. This telegram which was signed "Pete Chavka, chairman," stated:

Demand Eight's Release

"We, 2,500 workers gathered at South Slav Picnic, Youngstown, Ohio, vigorously protest the massacre of negro workers slaughtered at Camp Hill for protesting the attempted legal lynching of the Scottsboro boys. We demand death penalty for the murderers of the negro workers and for the immediate release of the Scottsboro nine young workers also freedom for the all class war prisoners in the State of Alabama."

Other telegrams of like tenor, commenting on the flareup in Tallapoosa County, were received from various parts of the country. All were placed in the executive file with the scores of similar communications that have accumulated in recent weeks.

Solicitor Sanford Mullins of Tallapoosa County, who was here yesterday on business, said that all is quiet in Tallapoosa, and no further trouble is anticipated.

Dothan, Ala., Journal
Thursday, July 9, 1931

300,000 Germans Cable Objections to Sentences Of 8 Negro Attackers

Three hundred thousand members of the proletarian organization of Germany demand the release of the eight negroes now confined in Kilby Prison, who are under sentence of death for criminally assaulting two young white women in Jackson County last Spring, Gov. Miller was informed in a cablegram received yesterday from Berlin.

The message, bearing the date of July 4—Independence Day in the United States—was written in German and transmitted in that language. Translated by Miss Mary England, a member of the State Department of Education staff, at the request of Dr. A. F. Harman, State Superintendent of Education, to whom it was referred by the executive department for interpretation, it states, literally:

"Three hundred thousand members of proletarian organization in Germany perceive the death sentence against negro youths as an unquenchable civilization disgrace. Raise flaming protest. Demand setting free." It was signed by words which mean, it seems, an "organization for working men."

Gov. Miller had the message filed with other communications received from various quarters regarding the cases of the negroes convicted at Scottsbora.

All of the condemned men have taken appeals to the Supreme Court of Alabama where they are now pending. With the high court at present in recess, it will be several months at least before these appeals can be acted upon.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
[illegible] 1931

URUGRAYAN JOINS SCOTTSBORO HOWL

More Messages Stuff Files In Governor's Office, As Reds Push Plea

South America added its voice to cabled protests against execution of the eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro of criminally assaulting two white girls when a cablegram was received yesterday at the offfce of Gov. Miller, from the "Comite Ejecutero" at Montevideo, Uruguay, urging against the carrying out of the death sentences.

Among other communications along the same line, delivered at the executive office during the day, were protestations concerning the conviction and sentence of the negroes, from the following: "Workers" of Newark, N. J.; "Confederation Nacional Abrera de Cuba," Havana, Cuba; "Mass Meeting of Negro and White Workers," Portland, Ore.; "Russian Mutual Aid Society," Maynard Mass.

"Columbus Branch, International Labor Defense," Columbus, Ohio; "International Labor Defense," Rochester, N. Y.; "United Front, International Labor Defense Committee," Passaic, N. Y.; "Workers Mass Meeting," Waukegan, Mich.; "International Labor Defense," Utica, N. Y.; "League Struggle Negro Rights," Detroit, Mich.; "United Front Scottsboro Defense Committee," Monroe, N. Y.

NEW YORK TIMES
JUL 15 1931

RALLY TO THE SUPPORT OF 8 CONDEMNED BOYS

Protests Pile Up With Alabama Governor, Charging 'Slaughter' of Young Negroes Impends.

Special to The New York Times.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 14.—Letters, telegrams, radiograms and cables from all parts of the world and from persons in all walks of life protesting in behalf of eight young negroes sentenced to death at Scottsboro continue to pour in on Governor B. M. Miller.

Most of the messages declare the executions would be a "wholesale slaughter." Among those sending protests were Albert Einstein and Theodore Dreiser.

The youths were convicted following their arrest in connection with an attack on two white girls, hoboing their way on a freight train from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Scottsboro.

An appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court automatically suspended the death sentences, and the respite probably will last more than three months, since the Supreme Court will not convene until late August and the case is not likely to come under consideration by that body for some time.

ATTORNEY FILES PLEA FOR NEGROES

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., Aug. 7.—(AP) C. A. Wann, circuit [illegible] clerk here, said today G. W. [illegible], of Chattanooga, attorney appointed by the International Labor Defense to defend eight [illegible] to die for attacking two Alabama white girls, has filed a bill of exceptions in the appeal of the negroes.

Wann said Chamblee also filed a petition asking a change of venue for Roy Wright, ninth negro accused in the attacks, whose first trial resulted in a mistrial. Wright, a juvenile, is in the Jefferson county jail at Birmingham awaiting trial.

NEW ORLEANS, LA
STATES
States
JUL 9 1931

Hurting, Not Helping

RUSSIANS are said to be planning a protest against the threatened hanging of some eight negroes recently convicted of a capital crime in Al[illegible]. They say it would be barbarous.

Somebody has interested Prof. Einstein, recent visitor to the United States and made much of because of his scientific discoveries, and he has made an appeal to President Hoover to prevent the executions. Perhaps we shall have another Sacco-Vanzetti outburst in parts of Europe, with the protestants knowing no more of the facts of the case than they did of the Massachusetts banditry and murders.

So far as the Russian protest is concerned, it is hardly worth notice. The Soviet has put to death so many thousands of persons, beginning with the cruel murder of the royal family, shot down or otherwise executed so many thousands for offenses either unpunishable in this country or that on conviction would have earned the offenders slight jail terms, that it is pretty nearly the quintessence of absurdity for any group of them to object to the administration of criminal justice in this country.

* * *

AS TO Prof. Einstein's appeal to the President, it of course proceeds from total ignorance of the powers of the head of this nation. The occupant of the White House cannot intervene in a criminal case in which the laws of a State are violated. When the Italian lynchings occurred in New Orleans in the early 90's, Secretary of State Blaine cabled the Italian government that the United States would intervene. But the late Gov. Nicholls promptly called down the Federal secretary, who was forced to acknowledge his error. All the United States could do was to pay an indemnity to the families of the Italian subjects who were victims, which it did. In the Alabama instance all eight of those convicted are Americans.

The latest reports we have from Alabama are to the effect that an element of influential people in that State are interesing themselves in the cases of these negroes. They are disposed in favor of some measure of executive clemency. Opinion outside of Alabama would probably welcome action in that direction. But any attempt on the part of Russians or any other European elements to stir up a clamor in favor of the condemned would inevitably have the reverse effect intended, as happened in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. The people of Alabama would resent such an attempt on the part of foreign elements to interfere in a matter exclusively their own to handle.

NEW YORK TELEGRAM
JUL 15 1931

YES OR NO?

IF eight white men were accused of assaulting two white girls who were riding as hoboes on a freight train in a Northern State wouldn't

timony as to the character of the two girls be admitted as a proper and necessary part of the defense?

Then why shouldn't the same apply in the case of eight Negroes accused of committing such a crime under similar circumstances in a Southern State?

These eight Negroes in Alabama have been convicted and sentenced to die. They were convicted largely on the testimony of the two girls in a community so violently prejudiced that militia had to guard the courthouse during the trial.

The verdict and sentence aroused strong protest in other parts of the country. The case has been appealed. A new trial is sought. Defense Counsel George W. Chamblee, of Chattanooga, declares he has proof that the reputations of the two girls were bad. He also says:—

> "As a man who has practiced law in the criminal courts for many years I assert that the most dangerous and one of the most undependable witnesses in the world is a woman testifying in an assault case against a Negro."

Is that true, or isn't it?

Does American justice condemn a Negro to death on evidence that would not be sufficient to convict a white man?

These are ugly questions of long standing.

It is time they were squarely faced and answered.

WHITE SCHOOL CHILDREN GIVE UP DESSERT

Star of Zion

To Aid N.A.A.C.P. Scottsboro Defense

7-23-31

New York.—The children of the famous Manumit School at Pawling, New York, stirred by the story of the eight Negro boys recently convicted to death at Scottsboro, Alabama, have forwarded $24.00 to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to aid in the defense, according to announcement made here today.

Charlotte N.C.

Remittance of the amount was made by Miss Sarah N. Cleghorn, well known poet and teacher of English at Manumit School, who recently made a personal contribution of $10.00 for the same purpose. The $24.00 remitted today, according to Miss Cleghorn, was raised through the children voluntarily giving up dinner desert five days a week. Miss Cleghorn tells the interesting story as follows:

"During the winter the Manumit children and teachers voted to give up dinner desserts on five days a week (if the dietitian could arrange the food values accordingly) so as to contribute something for the unemployed. This they continued to do for several months, until the amount saved and contributed had reached over a hundred dollars.

"At about the time the hundred dollar mark was reached, pictures and appeals for the Scottsboro victims of race prejudice were received at Manumit and the children were strongly touched. Henry Linville (the youngest son of Dr. Linville of the Teachers' Union) who is fourteen years old, and a boy of a great deal of humane feeling, said to me one morning, 'I've been thinking all night about those boys in Scottsboro. I think we ought to help them. Will you ask the Community meeting if they want to send the dessert money for the rest of the school year to those boys?'—I gave his message to the meeting, since for some reason he felt shy of doing so, and the children voted eagerly to accept the plan. About two weeks of school were left, and this twenty-four dollars is the amount saved by the children's going without dessert at dinner except on Wednesdays and Sundays."

Star of Zion
Charlotte
N.C.

The Superior Nordic

Mr. William J. Mahoney, white, managing editor of the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, reviewed the Scottsboro case for the Baltimore Evening Sun on August 14, in an illuminating manner.

Afro American
8-22-31

Mr. Mahoney said:

> "The average platation colored person is a transplanted savage, with the mentality and unconscious cruelty of a child, blind to reason and restrained only by fear. . . . Southern jails are filled with colored men held on charges of murder and assault with intent to murder."

Baltimore Md.

If true, what a confession, what a reflection upon the civilization and Christianity of these Southern white people who, forced to free their black slaves 67 years ago, still keep their part of their community in semi-savagery.

Says Mr. Mahoney, "the pursuit of evidence and the exacting of a penalty" in the courts are not as inexorable when the victims are colored.

In other words, the South has two kinds of justice. Murder of a colored person by a colored person never ruffles a judge. The court is only concerned when a colored person murders a white person.

Editor Mahoney advises us that, "men both black and white, have climbed the gallows steps in this state to pay the penalty for that crime [rape]." He neglected to add that no white man has ever been hung for rape of a colored girl.

"Rare almost non-existent is the [Southern] colored man who knows his own age," Mahoney avers, who here generalizes upon a subject upon which he has only false information or none at all.

Mr. Mahoney's views are those of a typical Southern white. They reveal him as a man of no community sympathy. His black neighbors are barbarians.

Thus is justified the double standard of justice in the courts, the economic and political bans.

Finally, the Mahoneys generalize broadly. All colored are alike—rare is one who even knows his age.

So far will prejudice go. It not only prevents whites from knowing their black neighbors, but it also leads the whites to make false statements concerning them.

ADA, OKLA.
NEWS
AUG 3 1931

The eight young negroes recently sentenced to death in Alabama for attacking white girls are getting a lot of undeserved sympathy, principally through communistic propaganda. The reds always seize upon a particularly atrocious case and use it as a basis for a lot of demonstrations in this and other countries. This was one of the most revolting cases on record and the surprising thing is that the citizens of that state did not resort to lynch law at once, as is usual in such cases. Their self-restraint was admirable and the law was permitted to take its course. The evidence was convincing. There could be no doubt about the guilt of the young fiends and there could be but one verdict. however, the cases are on appeal and if any irregularities occurred the fact will be brought out then. It is such outbursts of maudlin sympathy emphasized by protests from the sob sisters of both sexes that lend encouragement to such criminals and make for lynch law.

Lynchings 1931

Alabama.

3396

Legal Punishment / for Rape

HUNTSVILLE, ALA.
TIMES

MAY 26 1931

The Scottsboro Case Now Presents Many Ramifications

The end of the story of the Jackson tragedy, in which several young negroes sentenced to death on charges of attacking two white girls, apparently has not yet been reached, observes, comments and continues The Decatur Daily. The situation, as presented this week by the Jackson County Sentinel, reveals many ramifications.

Attorneys for the defense are reported as attacking each other through the Chattanoogo press; another item says that the mother of one of the negro boys was sent to New York by the Labor Defense group to march in a communist demonstration there last week; publication is made of a letter by Theodore Dreiser, author, in which a widespread appeal for funds is made in behalf of the condemned negroes. Still another revelation is the story of two men, posing as staff writers of a New York newspaper, suddenly appearing in Scottsboro and equally as suddenly disappearing when a wire from the paper challenged their credentials.

It is unfortunate that communist organizations have seen fit to attempt to make capital for themselves out of the Scottsboro case. The tragedy itself had sufficient pathos without adding more.

Perhaps one of the most interesting of the several articles in the Sentinel this week is a letter from the pastor of a Jackson county negro church in which he pleads for patience and caution and that the law be allowed to take its course, without stirring bitter animosities between the races. He takes the very reasonable position that if the defendants have been guilty of the acts charged against them, they should be dealt with according to law. If they are not guilty, the law will protect them as was done during the trial and after their convictions. National guardsmen were sent to the scene to preserve order and to see that the defendants had a trial free from mob influence.

Had the trial been held in some northern section of the country, the communistic activities probably would not have been inaugurated. Having been held in the South, however, an opportunity was seen to raise a sectional and racial issue which may do the red organizations some temporary good in additions to membership, but which is certain, unless the situation is handled carefully, to do much harm to Southern racial relations.

It is encouraging to note in the Sentinel that the inter-racial organization at Chattanooga has definitely decided to take no hand in the communistic movement. That organization is interested only in promotion of better relations between the races in the South and sensibly sees no occasion for it to attempt to interfere with the judiciary of Alabama.

The "Scottsboro case" is not the first instance that widespread propaganda has been circulated in an attempt to influence the verdicts of courts in America. It has been done before in the South, but this happens to be Alabama's first experience.

The Daily can but add its voice to those who caution patience and tolerance and insist that "let justice prevail."

The Sentinel, in a double column, first-page editorial expresses its resentment at the activities of the "reds" in the following language:

As predicted by The Sentinel at the very beginning the 'Scottsboro negro case' is spreading over the entire country by aid of the Reds, or Communists, and misinformed people who are honestly believing the propaganda now being carried forward.

Every day our officials, from Governor on down, are receiving telegrams and letters protesting the electrocution of the eight "negro children" on frame up charges of rape. Agents and solicitors are combing the country for funds under the pretense that the money is for the defense of these "negro children" and the most vicious literature imaginable is being circulated against our people and the court and its verdict. These protests are in main part from Communist or Red sources and they come in the spirit of threat rather than a plea. Among those entering into the proposition are some nationally known authors and "social uplifters."

The interference of these outsiders and their threats and protests of "legal lynching" will have little or no bearing on the outcome of the case of the negroes. The appeals of the eight negroes already sentenced are now matters out of the hands of local courts and local people. In the trial of these negroes Judge Hawkins seemed to go to extremes in giving them every comfort the law could afford and surrounding them with the proper protection as a matter of precaution and not because the citizenship indicated justice outside the law." The case is now assuming many angles and with all these angles one thing is outstanding and it is the general opinion of our people that these negroes were not done an injustice and that the law took its proper and just course in the case.

The lawyers for the negroes in trying to get a new trial are all mixed up and are having a heated newspaper controversy in the Chattanooga papers. Stephen Roddy of Chattanooga who was employed first in the case by negro organizations in Chattanooga is having a "round" with ex-Attorney General Chamlee, of Chattanooga, who is in the case at the instigation and on the pay of the International Labor Defense, or better known "Reds." Mr. Roddy claims Mr. Chamlee is hurting the case and that he (Mr. Roddy) is against the Reds and will have nothing to do with them. Mr. Chamlee says he is the proper one to defend the negroes and has been employed to look after their interests. So there it goes. Both lawyers, we are informed, are filing papers in the case and just who will be recognized as the head of the defense remains to be determined. One mistaken idea of some people is that the Reds are hurting the negroes' case. Under other circumstances this might be true, but those who are acquainted with the real facts of the case know that Reds or no one else can "hurt" the case. The Reds are capitalizing it for publicity and gain. That is all. The eight negroes are a long way from the "Immediate release" demanded by the Reds—or anybody else.

It has appeared impossible for this case to get a decent viewpoint in the press of the country, outside three or four Southern newspapers. We are in a place that tests our fibre—if the negroes should be turned loose we would be condemned as cowardly assassins who white-eyed on the murder; if the negroes die, we are murderers of little "innocent children." So the only thing we can think of appropriate for the present is to continue to do our duty as we see it and if the rest of the world does not like it and decides to take the matter over to invite them to go to hell.

Monday, [illegible] 25, 1931

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THE STEFFENS-DREISER NONSENSE

Advertiser
5-20-31.
Montgomery
Ala.

When a few hundred "Communists" in New York, or elsewhere, parade in protest against something, the demonstration is understandable. Nothing that is done under the American system of government and jurisprudence ever pleases a Communist. He thinks in extremes, acts by extremes. Elemental human justice makes much less of an appeal to the Communists than he imagines—what he really wants is a class war. He is not out to get even and exact justice for anybody, but to cause trouble. He has a political program to advance, and he does not care very much what he does to advance it.

But when men of the reputation of Theodore Dreiser and Lincoln Steffens lend the weight of their names to attacks on Alabama courts because nine members of an under-privileged class in this State have been convicted of a capital offense, the protest is not so easy to understand.

Steffens and Dreiser are not Communists and they have no connection with the Communist party. But they went into action on the same day that the Communists of New York did, and about the same thing. They are members of the "National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners." Saturday they released a letter which they had sent to Governor Miller in which they declared that "many sober-minded people are unable to see how the trial of these boys differed in any of the more important essentials from an outright lynching." They insinuate that the "boys" were convicted only because they were "friendless Negroes."

This is nonsense. Notwithstanding that the circumstances in this case were extremely provoking, the citizens of Jackson county deported themselves with dignity and self-restraint. There was a threat of mob action, but a cool, determined sheriff met this threat adequately and thereafter the trial proceeded fairly and in an orderly manner. There was little real dispute about the essential facts. The nine accused men were charged with criminal assault upon three girls. These girls were not residents of Jackson county, the accused men were not residents of Jackson county, the crime having been committed on a freight train that was passing through that county. But Jackson county had to bear the cost of the trial and endure the painful notoriety attending such an event. Nevertheless Jackson tried to do its full duty in the premises, and today its conscience is clear. The prompt action of the court in this instance is the sort of action which foes of mobs have always recommended as the wise and just substitute for violence against an accused person—it is the sort of thing that in late years has discouraged lynching in Alabama and given the courts a chance to develop the evidence on its merits to the end that no person would be done an injustice. In more than one instance in recent years Alabama courts have found Negroes charged with rape not guilty, notwithstanding that the accused had previously been believed guilty; and in every instance the innocent have subsequently gone free and unmolested by mobs. We cite this to show that white courts in Alabama do not always find Negroes accused of capital offenses guilty as charged.

The Advertiser is convinced that the nine negroes tried and convicted at Scottsboro were given a fair deal.

BROOKLYN CITIZEN

JUN 10 19[illegible]

REDS' DEMONSTRATION IN DRESDEN

Eight negroes are under sentence in Alabama to die on July 10 for criminal attacks on two white girls. Using this fact as an excuse a group of young Communists in Dresden staged a demonstration before the American Consulate, yelling and whistling, breaking windows, and throwing into the building a bottle containing the inscription, "Down with the American murder and imperialism. For the brotherhood of black and white young proletarians. An end to the bloody lynching of our negro coworkers."

The police arrested five men.

It is stated that the German Communist organs have been playing up the Alabama case in a sensational manner.

The Reds of Germany have no interest in the negroes of America. They are using the Alabama case as a means to obtain negro members. To swell their own ranks and make trouble for the Government here is their sole hope.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3397

3397

The Communists and the Scottsboro Case

New Republic

5-13-31

THERE are eight young Negroes in Alabama, ranging in age from sixteen to twenty years, who have been sentenced to be executed in July for a crime which they probably did not commit, after trials the impartiality and justice of which are certainly open to grave question. The circumstances surrounding their conviction were recited in The New Republic of April 29, and we shall not repeat them here. The most significant new fact about their case is the character of the groups which have rallied to their defense.

The Communists, so far as we can piece together the chronology of the case, were first in the field. Shortly after the sentences of death had been passed, they sent investigators to Scottsboro, the scene of the trials, retained lawyers, and undertook to appeal at least one of the cases to a higher court, as a test on behalf of the entire group. They also issued voluminous publicity material from their New York City headquarters, of a type similar to that used in the Sacco-Vanzetti case and other *causes célèbres*.

New York, N.Y.

But in the meantime, other non-Communist groups and individuals were stirred by the plight of these young men, and also undertook to intervene on their behalf; and an acute quarrel at once became evident between the radicals and all the rest. The non-Communists profess to fear that support by the Communists will have a fatal effect; that animosity toward radicals is almost as strong in the South as is the underlying tension between Negroes and whites; and that a case avowedly conducted by the Communists is therefore nearly certain to have an unhappy outcome for the defendants.

Vol. LXVI, no. 858

Naturally, this accusation hurts the Communists' feelings very much indeed. They point out that when they came to the rescue, no one else was showing much interest in the case, and that the present support from non-Communist quarters is largely the result of their own efforts. When individuals opposed to the Communists persuaded the defendants and some of their parents to sign a statement repudiating the Communists, the latter next day obtained a second statement contradicting the first. Here, for the present the matter rests.

There is, in our opinion, a simple test by which it is possible to tell whether the Communists are concerned to save the lives of these eight young Negroes, or to create propaganda in the interest of their cause in general. In carrying the case to a higher court, it is primarily necessary that competent counsel be employed and sufficient funds be provided for the expenses of the fight. Will the Communists, if they are assured that these things will be done by more conservative groups which do not arouse the same unreasoning prejudice as themselves, withdraw from active participation in the case? They could still, of course, carry on propaganda among their own rank and file, and help to build up the nation-wide interest which is desirable. If they insist on seeking to conduct the fight, and if the defendants are then put to death, they will have incurred a terrible responsibility and one which cannot fail to react unfavorably upon the progress of their own cause in the United States.

WHAT PRICE PUBLICITY!

Courier 5-16-31

Pittsburgh, Pa.

SOME time ago the little town of Scottsboro, Alabama hitherto practically unknown, made the front pages of our American dailies by reason of the conviction of eight colored boys charged with rape. We have no intention to deal with the facts in the case, because we do not know them, but we do feel free to deal with the condition which has developed since the conviction of the boys.

Naturally enough, Negroes become concerned when they read accounts of lynchings, mob violence, and what to them may seem like hasty trials in "hurry-up" courts. It would be just as natural for white people to be concerned and not a little excited. Naturally then, the Negroes of this country became immediately interested, and some of them became heatedly excited, when the news broke telling of the conviction of eight boys charged with rape. Everybody wanted to do something and most everybody wanted something done at once. Everybody had his own method of doing the thing thought necessary and proper. Negroes and Negro organizations almost stampeded themselves in an effort to do something. And it must be admitted that when Negroes stampede, a herd of excited buffalo is a mild demonstration in comparison. As soon as the case was reported, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in keeping with its program and its time-honored custom, set about a sane but determined investigation of the facts. There was no need of a blare of trumpets nor of self-praise in this undertaking. Everybody expected the Association to do its duty and the wise and intelligent Negroes of the country were satisfied to await the investigation by and report of the Association.

But what happened? A little handful of Communists, seeking an opportunity to get cheap publicity, set about with a great hue and cry to give the impression that they were going to release the prisoners here and now. They sent out telegrams, news releases, threats, charges, and counter-charges, all intended to attract public attention to themselves, but none capable of doing the boys one iota of good. It is our understanding that these hot-headed publicity seekers sent the Governor of Alabama close to one hundred telegrams demanding the immediate release of the boys, and copies of these telegrams were, no doubt, used to impress the public with the efficiency of the Communistic organization in releasing men convicted by the Courts. Of course, there are weak-minded people who pay attention to everything that smacks of bravado and summary action. And the Communists appealed to this element, not only for the purpose of attracting attention, but perhaps, for the purpose of garnering in a few shekels of the realm. It is our opinion that if the boys convicted ever receive one iota of consideration at the hands of the Courts or at the hands of the Governor of Alabama, it will not be due to anything the Communists have done, want to do, or can do. It is more likely, however, that if mobs break out in Alabama and these eight boys are taken from the jail and lynched, it will probably be due to the nonsensical activities of the Communists, who by their misguided energies, will finally drive the citizens of Alabama to the point of desperation.

Alabama, and we refer to the men and women responsible for the government of Alabama, need not get excited over the

circus staged by the Communists. In fact, we hope that the common citizens of Alabama will maintain a coolness of head and stability of common sense and await orderly results growing out of orderly investigation and procedure.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People need not spend any sleepless nights over the criticisms, vituperations, and abuses broadcast by the Communists. Every energy should be devoted toward a sane and intelligent investigation of the facts and the country will be satisfied when the Association makes its final report. The Communists may get some publicity, but if they create a disturbance in Alabama we shall, some day, ask, "What Price Publicity?"

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
Sunday, May 17, 1931

Reds In Frenzy About 8 Blacks

Dreiser And Steffens Call On Gov. Miller To Free White Girls' Attackers

NEW YORK, May 16.—(AP)—Communists and their sympathizers held a demonstration today protesting against the death sentences imposed on eight negroes, convicted at Scottsboro, Ala., of criminally assaulting two women.

About 500 persons participated in the demonstration, which began with a meeting in which speakers attacked the "framing of the youths at the instigation of the Southern bosses." The meeting was followed by a parade in which Ada Wright, mother of two of the negroes, marched. A band provided music as the marchers sang "The Internationale" and "Solidarity."

Placards calling attention to the negroes' plight were carried by several men.

There was a large detail of police on hand. Twenty-five detectives worked through the crowd before the start of the parade, occasionally searching a suspicious looking person. Five mounted men led the parade and 100 uniformed patrolmen were on duty along the line of march.

The National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, headed by Theodore Dreiser and Lincoln Steffens, tonight made public an open letter to Gov. B. M. Miller, of Alabama, demanding the release of the negroes. The committee is now being formed by a group of writers, artists and others.

The letter to Gov. Miller said, "Many sober-minded people are unable to see how the trial of these boys differed in any of the more important essentials from an outright lynching. The impression is inevitable that the reason for the extraordinary resemblance to an outright lynching in this case lies in the fact that the defendants are friendless negroes."

The letter added: "No State of this Union has a right to speak of justice as long as the most friendless negro child, accused of a crime, receives less than the best defense that would be given its wealthiest citizen."

Called at the executive mansion last night relative to the Dreiser-Steffens letter, Gov. Miller said that it had not yet reached his attention. "I am receiving four or five telegrams a day, many of them insulting in tone," the Governor said. He was making no attempt to reply to any of them, he added, but was having them filed with other records in the Scottsboro case. The Dreiser-Steffens letter would be filed with the rest, he indicated.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
Wednesday, May 13, 1931

SENTINEL RESENTS "RED" INTERFERENCE IN JACKSON

The Jackson County Sentinel announces receipt of a letter from Philadelphia, signed by the author who describes himself as a Communist. The intent of the letter, the Sentinel says, appeared to be to stir up strife between the races, predicated perhaps on the recent trial and conviction of a group of negroes for attacking two white girls in Jackson county.

The Daily shares the resentment of the Sentinel that a Philadelphian should try to advise the South how to run its business. The Daily shares the resentment that anyone, (to say nothing of a Communist) should endeavor to utilize the tragic circumstances of the recent Jackson county crime to attempt to stir up hatred between the white and negro citizens of Alabama.

The Jackson county case was a black page in the history of our state, a page which is regretted by our law-abiding negro citizens just as it is regretted by our white citizens. During the investigation, and subsequent trial of the defendants in that case, the citizens of Alabama and particularly of Jackson county, white and negro, conducted themselves well despite the trying circumstances.

The efforts of "Red" organizations to make capital for themselves out of the situation will meet a deserved rebuke.

Discussing the letter the Sentinel says:

"On Monday of this week, through the United States registered mail, the editor of The Jackson County Sentinel received one of the vilest, most vicious and threatening letters ever known to have been sent through the mails. It was supposed to have been sent by one Donald Greer in Philadelphia, who calls himself a Communist or "Red." The letter was lengthy and personal and general and of a nature that makes it unprintable. The full intent of the missive was to get it published and stir up racial hatred among the whites and negroes of the South, possibly to a degree of actual warfare, as this was urged upon the blacks by the writer. The letter has been turned over to the proper government authorities.

"This is just one of many attempts of the Reds to incite the negroes to follow the Red banners, obey Red leaders and contribute to the Red treasury. The "Scottsboro death sentence case" comes in conveniently for this kind of propaganda. So, for the benefit of readers and those who are not acquainted with actual racial conditions in Scottsboro and this section, the editor of this paper discusses that matter frankly and openly and truthfully.

"To say that Southern white people hate and oppress the negro race is a lie out of the whole cloth.

"In Scottsboro there has never been racial trouble of any kind. The existing condition now and that which has existed for all time is not one of hate but one of friendliness and understanding. The only trouble experienced between the white and negro races in the South is caused by the "scum" from both races and both races have that "scum" and recognize it as such.

"During the recent trial of the negroes here and their conviction there was not the slightest friction of any kind between the races. The negroes went about their duties and businesses just the same as if nothing was happening; the town was full of negroes during the trial and we did not hear of even one threat by or against them.

"And above all, it must be understood that despite popular conception in the North and East the white people of the South do not hold the negroes responsible collectively for the misdeeds of the individual.

"In Scottsboro the negroes have their own schools, their own churches, their own stores, their own organizations, and there is not a place anywhere a negro can have freer rein for the promotion of any honest effort than right here in this town now being attacked under false pretense.

"Our unwritten law and policy has been the one and only law and policy that can ever solve the race question in the South, namely: THE WHITE RACE LET THE NEGROES ALONE AND THE NEGROES LET THE WHITES ALONE.

This unwritten agreement is the aim of every intelligent and law abiding white and negro citizen. Only one person can lift the negro—himself. The vast majority of negroes know this is the truth and they are casting their endeavors along lines of permanent reward for honest labors of citizenship. There are no "short cuts" to the top.

"We do not place any of the blame for the conduct of the eight convicted negroes on local negroes, or negroes, anywhere for that matter. At least four of these negroes have bad police records in Chattanooga. The editor of this paper personally saw through police records and files at Chattanooga Monday and knows that at least four of them have failed to respect the law and have preyed upon their own race as well as the white race.

"The respectable and intelligent Southern negro really has no desire in the world to cross the color line no more than the intelligent white man. And these two elements although in predominant majority are being forever taxed with the task of keeping in leash the "scum" portion of both races.

"In the Southern States the negroes have several splendid organizations for the upbuilding of the negro race. They are working along educational and citizenship lines that will bring permanent betterment to the negro.

"Present propaganda which the Russian Red organizations are trying to "get over" to the Southern negroes is going to fall on deaf ears with the possible exception of a very few who, it will be found upon investigation, are rarely guilty of any honest upbuilding effort, but thrive upon trying to tear down the worthy things others have builded.

"There is not the slightest racial friction of any kind at Scottsboro and it is not likely there will be any. The policy of mutual understanding on the part of the better elements of both races invites the investigation of any outsiders who are qualified to make such, but neither the negroes or the whites care for the assistance of the Reds and their system of either living or government.

"So far as threats made by Communists against private citizens and our own government are concerned, we have little fear of them. But at the same time we have that feeling that if the Russian system is so ideal our government should furnish these Reds transportation and "sufficient urge" to convey them back to that place of exquisite bliss and suggest that they live happily ever afterward."

Lancaste [illegible]
Friday, [illegible]

PRESS COMMENTS

Interference

The "International labor defense," apparently an organization with Communist principles, will win no recruits in the South by its fight against conviction in Alabama of those Negroes who raped two white girls hoboing in a freight car. Its position is that laborers should never be punished, no matter what they do. There are veiled threats in telegrams it sent the judge who presided at the trial and the governor of Alabama. Communism is making a special drive in the South, making its appeal chiefly to Negroes. In a communist meeting recently broken up in Greenville, most of those present were Negroes. There are idle, loafing Negroes in the South to whom Communism will appeal, but it will make no headway with the great mass of self-respecting, hard working Negroes.—Anderson Independent.

Elizabethtown Ky.

JUL 24 [illegible]

The Folly of Alabama Negroes.

Negroes in Alabama have sent notes threatening the life of Governor Miller because he refused to pardon eight Negroes given the death penalty by jury trials for an assault upon two white girls. Some of these Alabama Negroes have carried this threat against the Governor's life still further by holding public meetings at which the Governor was threatened. One of these meetings has been broken up by police in which several Negroes were shot and several policemen were injured. A second meeting has been called by Negro leaders and it probably will be dispersed as the first one was. There is no crime in the South which arouses the white men more than the assault upon women of their race by Negroes. These eight Negroes in question who are under the death penalty for such an assault should receive this penalty. It is absolutely necessary that they shauld, having been fairly tried and convicted by a jury, in order that the white women of Alabama may be protected from similar assaults. Governor Miller is standing exactly right in refusing to pardon these convicted Negroes. He could not take any other stand in Alabama without forfeiting the respect and confidence of the white people.

Lynchings-1931
&
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

3398

NEW YORK
GRAPHIC

JUL 22 1931

Thousands Score Dooming Of 8 for Attack on 2 Girls

Montgomery, Ala., July 22 (UP).—There is a constantly growing file of cablegrams, telegrams and petitions in the offices of Gov. B. M. Miller pleading for the lives of eight Negroes sentenced to death for an attack on two white girls.

The [illegible] are arriving daily from two continents. The governor has made no comment on them. And while legal authorities say he can take no action until the state Supreme Court decides the validity of the Negroes' convictions, the messages continue in a steady stream until there are now more than 2,000.

A majority of the petitions are from labor organizations. Typical is one from the Canadian Labor Defense League:

"We protest the legal lynching and railroading to death of nine young Negro workers of Scottsboro, and we demand the unconditional release of the young victims of the savage lynch law," reads the petition.

Another petition came across the Atlantic from Germany. Five hundred signatures are on it. Its caption reads, "Framed up by bosses and sentenced to die in Alabama."

Demopolis, Ala., Times
Wednesday, July 22, 1931

The Dadeville And Scottsboro Cases

The Dadeville and Scottsboro cases are so interelated that one may be said to have grown out of the other. In the Scottsboro case, there was an assault on two white girls, in which nine negroes were arrested and eight were convicted and given the death sentence. This finding and sentence of the Scottsboro court seems to have met with disapproval in the outside world, the governor having received seventeen hundred protests from various parts of the country, styling the verdict as judicial murder and demanding the pardon of the convicted parties.

Then comes the Dadeville case, in which a sheriff is wounded in trying to break up an unlawful assembly and one negro killed by his posse. This also goes to the outside world, painted in more or less lurid colors of race persecution.

With the verdict of the Scottsboro jury and the consequent sentence by the court, the fact that the men were negroes should have nothing to do with it. It is the crime and not the color of the criminal that must be punished, but it is the custom of parties in the north and other parts of the country to lay all punishment of negroes strictly along the color line, and it is to this outside interference that may be traced the Dadeville unfortunate affair. "Four White men," from somewhere, gathered the Tallapoosa county negroes together to organize, for ostensibly agricultural and labor affairs, but in reality to foment trouble. Incidentally it is stated they collected a five dollar membership fee, but, be that as it may, it was outsiders that started the trouble, and not for any special regard for the negro, and so a sheriff was wounded and a negro lost his life.

The Scottsboro case is still before the Supreme court. If injustice has been done, it is not too late to correct it. Only our courts must decide the innocence of parties accused of crimes in Alabama, and not "International Labor Defense" in New York or elsewhere. Outside interference that causes trouble, and the negro generally gets the worst of it when he listens to their wooings. They want something the negro has, get it and go on their way, leaving the negro to help himself as best he can, and finally find his really best friend in the white man in the home in which he is raised.

Doubtless those Dadeville negroes met together with really good intentions, and most of them meant no harm, but such gatherings in a neighborhood generally make the white people nervous, thoughtless ones do some overt act and trouble follows. The Southern negro can get along very well without any suggestions from outside communistic organizations. That is a lesson he can gather from everyday experience.

Alabama needs not to be taught how to take care of her laboring population, white or black, noor does she need directions from Massachusetts or New York to suggest verdicts and judgment of her courts. Crimes must be punished without regard to the color of the criminal, and our courts acquainted with the circumstances are the best judges of what is justice, and the punishment should fit the crime, regardless of sensational newspaper stories a thousand miles away. One negro loses his life and two white men receive severe wounds because of such outside inteference.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
VINDICATOR

JUL 24 1931

Communists and the Scottsboro Case

Youngstown which has heard a great deal of the Scottsboro case during the last few weeks, will be interested in the opinion of Communist activity in connection with it which is expressed by a man in a position to speak with authority. William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which was working to save the eight condemned Negroes before the Communists took up their cause, writes that the Communists are merely seizing upon this case to further their propaganda. They care nothing for the unfortunate men except as a means for stirring up trouble among the Negroes in the South and so swelling the ranks of their followers. Here, in part, is Mr. Pickens' vigorous denunciation of those who would encourage the colored man to adopt a course contrary to his real interests:

There are two branches of the Communist party in America. One branch seems to have some sanity and knows that Atlanta is not Moscow. The branch that is managing the Communist propaganda in this Scottsboro matter, seems to have neither a knowledge of the United States nor any discretion in its procedure of the National Association for truth. These fellows pretend to be fighting the "white bosses, capitalists and ruling class," but are wasting all their ammunition against the best interests of procedure nor any respect for simple the American Negro, which is represented in the more sensible and constructive the Advancement of Colored People. This group proposes to make war to the finish on any movement that is not Communist and which does not indorse the Communist program of violence and recklessness.

They fear the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People more than they fear all other organizations; because they think that the association, by giving the Negro hope of advancement under the established order, keeps Negro masses from rushing into the Communist party. They have not taken into account the fact that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People takes no account of what shall be the "established order." Even if Communism were established here, the Negro would need to take care of himself against "prejudice"—race and color prejudices—just as he now has to do that. Communism could not immediately change the history and psychology of American white people.

And another thing the Communists do not know: It is not the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which keeps Negroes from rushing into a foolish and violent group like these Communists; it is the Negro's horse-sense that is responsible for that. If the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were destroyed overnight, the Negro would not rush into Communism of the type made manifest by these fellows.

The Scottsboro case, as most readers of this newspaper know, is the case of eight Negro boys sentenced to death for the alleged rape of two white girls near Scottsboro, Alabama, death being the prescribed penalty from an assault by a Negro upon a white woman in that state. The crime took place in a box car in which the eight were riding, together with two white hoboes and their female companions, who were of doubtful reputation. It is said that not all of the eight were guilty, but they were convicted upon the testimony of the girls and condemned. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and friends of the Negro race throughout the country are now working to have the sentence set aside, charging that the girls' testimony was unreliable and the verdict was due to race prejudice.

COMMONWEALTH
GREENWOOD, MISS.

JUL 21 1931

A BRIEF FOR LYNCHING

Recent troubles in Alaba[redacted] mass meeting was marked by threats of death to the governor of the state unless executive clemency were extended to eight negroes convicted and sentenced to death on charges of assault on two white girls, constitute an argument which will continually confront the better element of both white and colored races in an effort to stamp out lynching.

The eight negroes, all hoboes, were charged and convicted with having assaulted two Chattanooga girls, who were also beating their way on a train. The negroes were arrested at a little Alabama town, and despite an inflamed and outraged public were tried in an orderly manner.

Immediately the Association for the Advancement of Negroes and other organizations began a campaign of criticism of the Alabama courts which led to demonstrations in Russia and by communists in other nations, culminating in an attempt by hired organizers to inflame the negroes of Alabama.

The expected happened. A number of misguided negroes were killed and several others jailed.

Meanwhile the negro rapists in jail were still alive while lawyers fought their battle in the courts. Had the rapists been lynched at the time of discovery of the crime, the finger of scorn might have been pointed at Alabama, but the lives of a sheriff and innocent but misled negroes might have been saved.

The northern associations which are guilty of stirring up strife are making it difficult for southern people who want to eliminate lynching to make any progress. If trouble is going to arise after legal trials of rapists, outraged communities are going to meet the trouble in the beginning and leave nothing for agitators to agitate about.

North Carolina Judge Upholds Justice Given 8 Scottsboro Negroes

Constitution
7-28-31
Montgomery

TORONTO, ONT., July 27.—(AP)—Judge Robert Sykes, of Durham, N. C., president of the Commercial Law League, said today that he holds no brief for eight negroes sentenced to death in Alabama for an alleged attack on two white girls.

Sympathy for the condemned negroes, Judge Sykes said, has been aroused among persons not sufficiently familiar with evidence submitted at their trial.

"As far as I can see, there is no animosity shown them because of their race," he said. "They were given every opportunity to prove their innocence."

Judge Sykes is attending a three-day session of the Law League.

SCOTTSBORO AND SANITY: MONTGOMERY AND WASHINGTON

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
7-20-31

Editor The Advertiser:

The Executive Mansion in Montgomery, as the White House in Washington in the words of Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain, is now become by a wonderful dispensation of Providence, the constitutional seat of government of "the greatest nation which now exists on the face of the earth."

When Chancellor Bruening justly praises President Hoover's moratorium proposal as a gift of God—as though money were the best gift of heaven—he should remember that the President of the United States rendered an earlier and far greater service to America and to the world in the inspired and historic words of his first message to Congress:

> "The orderly administration of the law involves more than the mere machinery of law enforcement. The efficient use of that machinery and a spirit in our people in support of law are alike essential. We have need for improvement in both. However much we may perfect the mechanism, still if the citizen who is himself dependent upon some laws for the protection of all that he has and all that he holds dear, shall insist on selecting the particular laws which he will obey, he undermines his own safety and that of his country. His attitude may obscure, but it cannot conceal, the ugly truth that the lawbreaker, whoever he may be, is the enemy of society. We can no longer gloss over the unpleasant reality which should be made vital in the consciousness of every citizen, that he who condones or traffics with crime, who is indifferent to it and to the punishment of the criminal, or to the lax performance of official duty, is himself the most effective agency for the breakdown of society.
>
> "Law can not rise above its source in good citizenship—in what right-minded men most earnestly believe and desire. If the law is upheld only by Government officials, then all law is at an end. Our laws are made by the people themselves; theirs is the right to work for their repeal; but until repeal it is an equal duty to observe them and demand their enforcement.
>
> "I have been gratified at the awakening sense of this responsibility in our citizens during the past few months, and gratified that many instances have occurred which refuted the cynicism which has asserted that our system could not convict those who had defied the law and possess the means to resist its execution. These things reveal a moral awakening both in the people and in officials which lies at the very foundation of the rule of law.
>
> "The test of the rightfulness of our decisions must be whether we have sustained and advanced the ideals of the American people; self-government in its foundations of local government; justice whether to the individual or to the group; ordered liberty; freedom from domination; open opportunity and equality of opportunity; the initiative and individuality of our people; prosperity and the lessening of poverty; freedom of public opinion; education; advancement of knowledge; the growth of the religious spirit; the toleration of all faiths; the foundations of the home and the advancement of peace."

These wise and prophetic words of America's great President of peace and good will, have been written into history by the Anglo-Saxon citizens of Scottsboro in Jackson County for the Commonwealth of Alabama.

The words of the President of the United States and the acts of the American citizens, the Anglo-Saxon juries, and the patriotic judges of Alabama with our upright and unimpeachable Governor, are one in spirit and in truth. The President spoke, the citizens of Alabama acted, for "all that he holds dear," or "the foundations of the home and the advancement of peace."

It is a startling revelation of the minds and characters of certain aliens and imposters—enemies of all law and of humanity itself—that they now set up themselves as judges of free government in our American Democracy, who themselves seek to subvert all government. These enemies of humanity add communism of women to communism of property under organized anarchy and vaunted atheism. Such as these would make Nero Emperor of America and ruler of the world with the Tarquins as Ministers of Morality!

Bankrupt themselves in money, in morals, in good government, these Janus-faced judges of their neighbors entreat loans of money from the United States and in the same breath offer gratuitous gifts of presumptious wisdom for better government in our American Democracy, the most stable and the best government on earth. Such as these are the enemies of the United States, at home and abroad, of the English-speaking race—nay, of humanity itself.

The glory of our English civilization is in reverence for womanhood—in whose defense the law is written and the sword unsheathed. Whoever believes in rape of women, in war or in peace, is no friend of the English race. If lust and rapine, fire and the mailed fist, be the culture and civilization of these savants of superior wisdom in government—let them make the most of it in their own countries and with their own women. The memories of war are not yet dead; nor the atrocities of peace forgotten. Certain nations are notorious for treating their women as but their beasts and as mere objects of barter. Against these, the United States has recently written righteous and most excellent laws which have protected the women of our land and confined behind steel bars traffickers in lust and shame. If these aliens and imposters, these advocates of free love and lust at large; if these tottering nations and bankrupt governments believe in Woodrow Wilson's policy of self-determination and work to make the world safe for democracy, they will find it admirably exemplified in the Commonwealth of Alabama and in the United States of America, both in Montgomery and in Washington.

It is a matter of startling wonder, a subject for sober reflection, that there are some, both at home and abroad, who believe that the seat and power of government in the United States and in Alabama is in a foreign country or somewhere else!

It is said that a certain foreign savant has joined the chorus of communists and anarchists. If that be true, it is worthy of note and remembrance that the English-speaking race have never taken their morals or manners from foreign poets or alien philosophers.

Why does not some foreign savant abroad or some literary imposter at home also "demand" that bombings cease in Birmingham, and let each such son of Solomon offer, with the State of Alabama, $1,000 to apprehend, to convict and to punish those who set at defiance law and order, life and liberty and property, virtue and morality, home and country? Property—money—is very dear and holy to some who debase and defile the very Temple of God, and who condone the crime of crimes. They set themselves up as judges who sympathize with crime and the criminal. They would advise an able and upright Anglo-Saxon judge and a truly great Christian Governor of the first American Commonwealth—who themselves revere neither the law nor the Gospel.

Those who loose beasts from their cages and those who suffer evil doers to defile the land, are morally responsible for the evil and horrors of such liberty and licentiousness. To condone evil is to be a partner in crime.

The ulterior and true purpose of men and nations is not always expressed in words and "demands."

As ancient as English fame, and one with American glory, is the spirit that breathes in that ancient and immutable law:

> "For nature gives to mankind and to nations the right of punishing for their defense and safety (e. g. Scottsboro); whence it follows that he only can be punished by those whom he has offended."
> (e. g. Alabama and the United States.)"

The people themselves are the supreme judge of their wrongs, of the dangers that imperil their homes and country. It is well for all countries—as for abdicating kings—to remember that the wrath of the people is the wrath of God.

HOPSON OWEN MURFEE.

Prattville, Ala., July 16, 1931.

Lynchings-1931
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Alabama

3399

Scottsboro, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, June 4, 1931

COMMUNIST LATEST LITERATURE SAYS SENTINEL LED "WOLF PACK"

Vicious Pamphlet Sent Out By International Labor Defense In Campaign To Raise Funds Through Appeal To Country On "Terrible Scottsboro Case"

This week there came to hands of the editor of The Sentinel the latest piece of literature in the Communist or "Red" campaign. This was in the shape of an illustrated circular depicting the "illegal lynching" of nine "little colored children" by bloodthirsty Southerners at Scottsboro. The Sentine come in as being the "leader of the wolf pack" to lynch the boys. This article is really astounding and we print it less the photographs and cartoons. The circulars closed with an appeal to send money to the International Labor Defense at Chattanooga at once. The reading matter of the circular follows:

The white Southern ruling class is out to commit the most bloody murder in its long black history of slavery, misery and death. It is out to legally lynch nine Negro working-class boys—two of them fourteen years old and all under twenty years of age.

Never before in the history of the South or the United States has such a horrible crime been planned! Eight of the boys are already sentenced to die in the electric chair July 10.

Unless the workers of America and all who are against the horrors of lynch law, move fast, very fast the deed will be done. There is time only till July 10. And these boys will be handed over to the executioner to be legally burned to death to satisfy the southern ruling class.

Unless the working class and sympathizers thunder in massed protest organize and fight against this planned legal murder, the boys will die as surely as Sacco Vanzetti were burned to death by the ruling class of Massachusetts!

This latest lynch crime is cloaked under a "legal" form. The boys were given a trial that was held in the courthouse at Scottsboro while an armed mob of 10,000 yelled for blood. The mob had been whipped into a lynching frenzy by the rich landowners and "leading citizens" called for immediate death.

When the first sentence of "Death by the electric chair" was handed down by the court—the mobs outside raised a thundering cheer. A brass band sent out by the leading citizens in town broke into music, parading all over Scottsboro announcing the verdict.

It took less than three days for the trial! Nine working-class boys railroaded to death with lightning speed. The boys had no chance for defense, no more than if their hands were tied and they were hanged on a tree. Even their parents were not notified although all the boys were minors, less than twenty-one years of age.

The Deadly Frame-Up

The flimsy excuse of the rich landowners to kill the boys is "Rape!" that old lynch cry of the South. There is not the smallest shred of evidence to prove that charge, an investigating group of white and negro workers representing the International Labor defense has discovered.

The boys, hungry, and out of a job were on a freight train passing thru Alabama to look for work, March 25. They were Roy Wright, and Eugene Williams, each only 14 years old; Ozie Powell, 16; Haywood Patterson, Will Robinson and Olin Montgomery, each 17; Clarence Norris and Andy Wright 19; and Charlie Weems, 20.

The boys were in three groups on three different parts of the train. The groups did not know of each other. One of the boys, Roy Wright, saw a scuffle between white and colored boys in a gondola several cars ahead. Then as the train slowed down he saw a number of white boys get off. Shortly afterward a group of colored boys climbed out.

A short time later the train halted at Paint Rock and armed squads of deputies combed the train from beginning to end. At the point of their guns they took off these nine young negro workers.

On a separate car, the deputies also found two white girls dressed in overalls and with short hair.

"GET ANY 'NIGGER"

The sheriff arrested the negro youths, having gotten word from the group of white boys in the scuffle with the other negro workers who had earlier gotten off the train. In order to punish those negro boys—who dared to defend themselves in the scuffle with the white boys—the sheriff was out to avenge himself on the first negroes he could lay hands on. He first charged the nine negro boys with hoboing—even though they were not in the fight.

But when he discovered the two white girls on the train—he had another idea. "Why not teach these niggers a lesson they'll never forget? A lesson that'll be an example to all the others." he said. So he tried to bulldoze the girls into saying they were raped by these nine boys.

Later in the jail the sheriff forced one of the girls, Victoria Price to make false charges of rape against these boys, while the other one, Ruby Bates, still refused to identify them. One of these girls was once arrested in Chattanooga on a sex charge. Both girls are most notorious prostitutes—as affidavits that the International Labor Defense can produce—prove. The two girls, whose testimony is entirely reliable, are known to have the worst possible reputation in Chattanooga and surroundings." Their reputations were bad for lewdness," states the affidavit of Savannah Clay who further declares, "they visited bootlegging joints and bawdy houses, and were bad as prostitutes and unworthy of belief on their oaths in a court."

"LYNCH 'EM LEGALLY

Then the lynch-howl went up! The press owned and controlled by the rich landowners shrieked for lynching. They whipped up the most savage mob spirit. They are experienced at this blood game—having done it hundreds of times before whenever they were out to lynch negroes. The Chattanooga Nws, the Jackson County Sentinel—led the wolf pack to kill these boys.

Legal Lynching with a Brass Band!

To make sure the legal lynching, the trail was rushed for April 6 county fair day. The prejudiced boss judge denied every move for time to prepare the defense and for a change of venue—that is change the place of the trail from the lynch-ridden county of Jackson, filled with the armed mob of 10,000.

The jurors mixed with the lynch-mob just before the trail. Not a single negro was drawn on the jury panel. No witnesses were called for the defense outside the accused boys themselves. The white boy workers who were on the train were not allowed to testify.

Judge Hawkins, in order to make it look as though he was observing the law—appointed the seven lawyers of Scottsboro to "defend" the boys.

All the attorneys except Milo Moody absolutely refused to take part in the case. S. R. Roddy, an irresponsible attorney from Chattanooga, recently released from an asylum for a nervous disease caused by drinking, was sent into the case by a certain group of Chattanooga colored ministers. Funds to hire him were sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Roddy worked hand in hand with the bosses to legally lynch the boys. He told the boys to plead guilty, though in a signed report, he said the case against them was weak, and he admits that he knows them to be absolutely innocent.

He even tried to get the boys to stop defense efforts being carried on by the International Labor Defense, the worker's organization—negro and white—which succeded in organizing a growing united front of masses of white and negro workers and sympathizers to save them—the only way the boys can be saved.

Condemned to The Electric Chair

That is the lynch spirit in which the boys were tried and sentenced to death with express-train speed.

Only in th case of one fourteen year old boy, Roy Wright, did the jury disagree. And that disagreement was eleven for death and one for life imprisonment. This is boss "justice" in the South!

On April 9th, Judge Hawkins had all the defendants brought before him and sentenced them to die in the electric chair on July 10.

The legal crime was rushed thru in less than 15 days! March 25 the boys were arrested. Circuit Judge A. J. Hawkins called a special term of the grand jury, March 30. The boys were arrainged th esame day and put in jail without bail. The trial was set for April 6th (the day of the county fair). On the 7th, Weems and Williams were condemned to death. Six others were sent to death on the 8th. And the entire trial was over the 9th

What an example of railroading. Of legal lynching! It was little more time than taking the boys out and hanging them to a limb of a tree—the usual form of lynching.

In fact, the bloodthirsty mob outside was assured it was unnecessary for them to break in and "hang the niggers" because the trial would be "almost as quick, and with the same results.'"

The Reason Why

What is behind the stage at Scottsboro? This terrible lynch terror is aimed chiefly against the 13 million negroes who are kept down as an oppressed race and nation, denied almost every right. In the Black Belt of the South, where they number more than the whites, the negro toilers are treated as bad and worse than the slaves before the Civil War. They are held in debt slavery upon the land and forced into the lowest levels in the towns and cities. They are treated like dogs and driven like mules to pile up the greatest riches for the big landlords and money kings.

Lynch terror is the weapon of the white southern ruling class in order to keep the negro working classes living on starvation wages—so that the bosses can get super-profits out of them. And also, in order to use these conditions as a club against, the white workers. The ruling class is thus able to cut the wages of the white workers—by using one group of the working class against the other.

What is The Reason For This

Lynching is a part of the brutal boss terror which rises all over the country. Ten million of workers are walking the streets, starving, out of job. Fifty millions more, their families are dying for a piece of bread to eat.

Not only the negros are under this terribles whip-lash of the bosses. White as well as negro—foreign-born as well as native born are suffering as never before. In Alabama, the white share croppers and workers are little better off than the negroes. And there has been a great deal of friction against the white landlords and bosses. Both negro and white are joining this movement against the bosses and organizing for the purpose—without a color line. They are beginning to organize together, to force relief from the ruling class. For only by uniting—fighting shoulder to shoulder—the white and negro workers of the South are beginning to realize—can they win living conditions. In order to halt the bosses in their use of the super-exploitation of the negro the following is necessary, the workers realize: that the negroes in the Black Belt win full equality and self determination. They realize a fight-alliance of the oppressed negro people and white workers and tenant farmers is the only way out.

Terror Grows Over U. S. A.

To keep them from such unity the bosses are trying every sort of terror. All over America, hundreds of workers are arrested for organizing, striking, even for speaking on behalf of the working-class. Mooney and Billing (life terms) and the Imperial Valley organizers in California (42 year sentences); the five Paterson workers (framed-up murder charge) are examples. Coder and Hurst, white native workers, were kidnapped, beaten and thrown into a creek by the K. K. K. of Texas, for organizing Unemployed Councils of white and negro workers.

The International Labor Defense in spite of all threats and schemes of the bosses and their tools will carry out its policy to raise mass protest and free the nine negro workers. Not by mere "legal defense" or pious wishes this be done. But by united fronts of all workers—white and negro, foreign-born and native-born, and all sympathizers in the struggle against lynch justice—protesting, organizing and fighting for these boy negro workers in the clutches of capitalist justice.

Only Mass Protest Will Save Them

The International Labor Defense warns again that unless all protest is united—massed and hurled against the lynch courts of Alabama—the boys will be murdered. The I. L. D. has thrown the searchlight of truth on the lynch system in this case. There can be no illusions of a "fair trial." Only mass protest of all the workers, white and negro, foreign-born and native, and individuals who are against the horrible lynch system—can force a new trial—and save these boys. And any individual or organization that says otherwise and that tries to build a faith in the "fairness" of the lynch-loving courts in Alabama and the South— is out to divide the forces fighting to save these boys—and to hand them over to the executioner.

Enemies in The Guise of Friends!

The International Labor Defense therefore exposes and condemns in sharpest terms those leaders of the Natioal Association of the Advancement of Colored People who are trying to split the united front to save the boys. Latest reports, according to the New York News and Harlem Home Journal, the N. A. A. C. P. has already asked for resignation of Dean William Pickens who indorsed the quick action of the International Labor Defense on behalf of the Negro boys.

Dean Pickens is being asked to resign because he wrote "The promptness with which the workers have moved towards defending these helpless and innocent negro boys, sons of black workers is significant and prophetic. The only salvation for black and white workers is in their united defense, one of the other. This is one occasion for every negro who has intelligence enough to read to send aid to the I. L. D."

Mass Protest!

Because he understood the necessity of mass protest—of a united front of all workers and sympathizers—and because he admitted the I. L. D. threw itself instantly into activity to rescue these boys from the executioner, while the NAACP leaders hesitated and dilly-dallied, relying on the "fairness" of the courts Pickens is being asked to resign.

The action of the NAACP is therefore one that will mean death to the boys, if it succeeds. The NAACP leaders are out to divide the mass protest—to dampen its fire—and in general to play directly into the hands of the ruling class in its plans to lynch these negro boys.

Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of Heywood, one of the condemned boys, has said, "I have told my boy that he should know the International Labor Defense is out fighting to save him and the others. It's the I. L. D. and workers' organization, white and black, that can save our boys."

From the lynch jail, 17 year old Heywood Patterson writes to his mother, "Mother, do what you can to save your son. I am in jail for something I did not do. You know it hurt me to my heart. Do you all try to come down and try to get me a new trial or I will surely be put to death on July 10."

Workers and Farmers! White and Negro! Native and Foreign-born! All who oppose brutal lynch-murder! Answer the appeal of these nine innocent workers. A new trial with a jury of white and negro workers.!

Stop the legal lynching of these nine working-class negro boys! Rush telegrams and resolutions of protest to the Governor of Alabama! These boys are innocent! Demand their immediate release! Equal rights for Negroes in all courts! Smash the savage Jim Crow lynch system.

Death to Lynchers!

Build the International Labor Defense into a mighty shield!

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER

MAY 19 1931

THE STEFFENS-DREISER NONSENSE

When a few hundred "Communists" in New York, or elsewhere, parade in protest against something, the demonstration is understandable. Nothing that is done under the American system of government and jurisprudence ever pleases a Communist. He thinks in extremes, acts by extremes. Elemental human justice makes much less of an appeal to the Communists than he imagines—what he really wants is a class war. He is not out to get even and exact justice for anybody, but to cause trouble. He has a political program to advance, and he does not care very much what he does to advance it.

But when men of the reputation of Theodore Dreiser and Lincoln Steffens lend the weight of their names to attacks on Alabama courts because nine members of an under-privileged class in this State have been convicted of a capital offense, the protest is not so easy to understand.

Steffens and Dreiser are not Communists and they have no connection with the Communist party. But they went into action on the same day that the Communists of New York did, and about the same thing. They are members of the "National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners." Saturday they released a letter which they had sent to Governor Miller in which they declared that "many sober-minded people are unable to see how the trial of these boys differed in any of the more important essentials from an outright lynching." They insinuate that the "boys" were convicted only because they were "friendless Negroes."

This is nonsense. Notwithstanding that the circumstances in this case were extremely provoking, the citizens of Jackson county deported themselves with dignity and self-restraint. There was a threat of mob action, but a cool, determined sheriff met this threat adequately and thereafter the trial proceeded fairly and in an orderly manner. There was little real dispute about the essential facts. The nine accused men were charged with criminal assault upon three girls. These girls were not residents of Jackson county, the accused men were not residents of Jackson county, the crime having been committed on a freight train that was passing through that county. But Jackson county had to bear the cost of the trial and endure the painful notoriety attending such an event. Nevertheless Jackson tried to do its full duty in the premises, and today its conscience is clear. The prompt action of the court in this instance is the sort of action which foes of mobs have always recommended as the wise and just substitute for violence against an accused person—it is the sort of thing that in late years has discouraged lynching in Alabama and given the courts a chance to develop the evidence on its merits to the end that no person would be done an injustice. In more than one instance in recent years Alabama courts have found Negroes charged with rape not guilty, notwithstanding that the accused had previously been believed guilty; and in every instance the innocent have subsequently gone free and unmolested by mobs. We cite this to show that white courts in Alabama do not always find Negroes accused of capital offenses guilty as charged.

The Advertiser is convinced that the nine negroes tried and convicted at Scottsboro were given a fair deal.

YONKERS, N. Y.
STATESMAN

JUN 6 1931

Protest Called On Lynchings

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense of Yonkers have sent out a call to labor unions, fraternal workers' organizations to send delegates to a conference Monday night at the Workers Co-operative Center, 252 Warburton Avenue, to protest lynchings and race discrimination.

A new wave of terror against the Negro is sweeping the entire country," says an announcement from the conference committee. "In Scottsboro, Alabama, nine Negro boys are to be electrocuted on framed-up charges. Lynchings in the South are increasing daily. In order to justify the drastic wage cuts, the mill owners are instilling hatred among the workers; incite white against Negroes and native against the foreign-born.

"It is the duty of all workers organizations and individual workers, white and Negro; native and foreign-born to rally in the struggle against lynchings and race discrimination."

Lynchings-1931
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3400

CALL PICKENS 'LIAR,' DePRIEST 'BIG FAKER' FOR SLUR ON "REDS"

Demand Right To Answer Attack Made By Dean Pickens. Break Up Meeting When Refused. Twelve Arrested

Whig

The mass meeting held Sunday afternoon at Wendell Phillips auditorium under the auspices of the Chicago branch of N. A. A. C. P. for the purpose of raising funds for the defense of the eight boys sentenced to death in Scottsboro, Ala., ended in a minor riot an utter confusion when a group of radicals demanded the right to answer charges against the Communist Party and the International Labor Defense League made by Dean Williams Pickens, the principal speaker of the occasion.

Chicago, Ill

The outburst occurred at the end of Dean Pickens' address, when after appealing for support of the defense fund ofthe N. A. A. C. P. Dean Pickens declared that "the radical groups are not interested in saving the lives of these boys so much as using the issue to spread propaganda for the benefit of the Communist party, and if the defense of these boys is left in the hands of this group, thees boys must certainly die.'

6-20-31

Demand Right To Answer

As Dean Pickens took his seat and workers for the N. A. A. C. P. began to move up the aisles taking the collection, Edward Williams, district secretary for the League for Struggle for Negro Rights, an affiliate o fthe radical group, rose to his feet, and adderssing Dr. Herbert A. Turner, president ofthe local branch, who was chairman of the meeting, demanded the right to address the meeting to answer the charges made by Dean Pickens. This was the signal for a wild outburst of "appqlause and shouts of "Let him talk" from all parts of the house. It i. reported that the radicals had planted a hundred or more 'claques' in all parts of the house to lead this move, but members ofthe radical groups deny that there were more than a dozen of their members present, claiming that the support of Williams was spontaneous encouragement from the audience. Williams moved down the main aisle to the steps which lead to the platform where Pickens, Oscar DePriest, Rep. William E. King, Atty. Earl Dickerson, and other notables were seated. At Williams first demand for a right to answer Pickens, the chairman refused him permission, and when Williams attempted to mount the platform, he was pushed down the steps to the floor level. Williams then mounted a chair and began a scathing attack upon the association and its representatives, calling Dean Pickens a 'liar' and a 'turn coat', and referring to Congressman Oscar DePriest as a 'big faker and a 'bully.'

Riot Reigns

These personal attacks were a signal for a challenge to personal combat. Dean Pickens is reported to have offered to 'hake care of Williams inthe back room.' Congressman DePriest leaped down from the platform and rushed toward Williams, shouting at him and threatening physical violence. In an instance Williams was surrounded by his associates both colored and white, and the belligerant Congressman permitted himself to be restrained by his own friends.

Shouts of 'Let him speak' mingled with others of 'Throw him out' filled the air. A call to police headquarters brought several squads of detectives and uniformed officers who, after unsuccessful efforts to restore peace, arrested twelve 'disturbers.' Of this group only five men, all colored, are admitted members of the radical group. One white woman and one white man arrested, Nina Rybott, and C. N. DeGroot, are members of trade unions but deny any affiliation with the radical groups, and deny having taken part in the disturbance and the Rev. A. N. Williams, who was also arrested is a south side minister, who was making his way out of the auditorium when taken into custody.

Freed On Bond

Those arrested were taken to the Stanton Avenue Police Station where after a short wait they were freed on bond of $500 each. The bond was furnished by white radical organizers. Those arrested were Edward Williams, Squire Brown, the Rev. A. W. Williams, Nina Rybott, C. N. DeGroot, Hanna Ward Arthur Williams, Anton Harbon, Winnie Mae Mills, and three others whose names weer not available.

The case came to trial Monday morning before Judge Rooney in the Pekin court room. The officers of the N. A. A. C. P. appeared against them, and the courtroom was filled trial, which was granted, and the bond was raised to $,000 each.

Commenting upon the situation, Dr. Herbert Turner, president of the association stated: "We have no quarrel with any of the radical groups, but we feel that their efforts to break up our meeting should be condemned."

Edward Williams, the League of Struggle organizer, whose answer to Pickens occasioned the outburst, in aninterview stated: "We had no intention of breaking up the meeting; weattended merely to defend our organization against the unjust charges which Dean Pickens has made every time he has spoken for the Scottsboro defense fund. If there was any violence, outburst or riot, our handful of workers are certainly not responsible and took no part in it."

Chattanooga, Tenn., News
Saturday, June 20, 1931

The Scottsboro Case.

Editor The News:

I have had nothing to say in your valued paper for many months, but in the course of current events, there occasionally arises an issue of public concern, the very nature of which calls for expression of righteous indignation. I am referring to the contemptible propaganda of villification turned loose on the public by unscrupulous northerners and easterners who style themselves defenders of the eight negroes who are in death row in Kilby prison, Montgomery, Ala., awaiting execution for perhaps the worst crime ever committed in the south. It is reasonably safe to assume that no worse crime was ever, at any time, perpetrated in Alabama.

Then, after an orderly, fair and impartial trial, which severely taxed the patience and treasury of a people already facing privations from the terrible drouth of 1930, there appears on the scene a bunch of "reds" and communsits who assumed the role of "defenders" for the condemned negroes and would-be murderers. A melee of anarchistic outbursts were directed first at the trial judge and people of the state in general. Later, threats were sent Gov. Miller.

These gentlemen—Judge Hawkins and Gov. Miller—however, have refused to be perturbed by the ravings of criminal thugs from the outside. They are proving thoroughly capable of discharging their official duties despite these threats emanating from somewhere.

It would seem useless to go into detail of this crime, which not only shocked the south, but the entire nation. It is enough to say that the good people of Chattanooga, as well as those of Jackson county, will take pleasure in approval of the orderly process of criminal law, in whatever section invoked, for the protection of life, virtue and the home. And no more outstanding example of the just administration of this sacred duty has been found than that which attended the aggravated case at Scottsboro.

W. D. B. CHAMBERS.

Chattanooga, June 15.

Clayton, Ala., Record
Friday, June 12, 1931

Execution Stay Won By Negroes In Court Ruling

—0—

Lawyers for 8 Men, Condemned To Die for Attacks, Get Time To File Briefs

—0—

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., June 12.—Attorneys for eight negroes, sentenced to die in the electric chair for attacking two young white girls on a freight train near here March 24, have been given until June 13 to file additonal briefs in their motion for new trials.

Judge A. E. Hawkins granted the delay when the attorneys, headed by Joseph R. Brodsky, former New York City magistrate, appeared to present their motion. Brodsky produced a statement signed by the negroes designating him and George W. Chamblee, of Chattanooga, to represent them.

Brodsky said he had been employed by the Interracial Labor Defense League. Stephen Roddy, Chattanooga, said he had been retained by the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Chattanooga to represent the negroes.

The negroes originally were sentenced to die July 10 at Kilby prison, where they are now held. The notice of appeal automatically won for them a stay of execution.

SCENE AS PROTEST

DRESDEN, Germany, June 10.—Bottles were thrown by communist youths last night at an office building, housing the American consulate. The bottles contained messages saying "Down with American murder and imperialism! Hail brotherly union, black and white proletarians and down with bloody lynch law on our negro comrades."

It was reported that five youths were arrested, but only one was detained. A communist newspaper said the disturbance was a protest against the impending execution of eight young negro workers, under sentence of death at Scottsboro, Ala., as a result of their conviction of criminal attacks on two white girls.

BATON ROUGE, LA.
ADVOCATE

JUN 20 1931

REDS 'OPPOSE' LYNCHING

Communistic organizations have adopted a policy of registering protests against the lyching of negroes in the south, and were they sincere in that attitude they would most certainly deserve hearty commendation.

Recent events have transpired

however, which indicate that ulterior motives are prompting those protests, while the communists do not care one rap one way or the other as to the fate of lynched negroes.

Particularly conspicuous in that connection is a telegram just sent to officers at Huntsville, Ala., where a negro held for disturbing a white woman was kidnaped from the prison. Nothing has been heard of him since. It was feared for a time that he was lynched. The telegram of the communists reads:

"We protest lynching Thomas Jasper and demand immediate thorough investigation, speedy trial and execution of his murderers. Police officers, deputies responsible for leaving jail unguarded, equally guilty. Co-operation of police and lynchers clear. Excuses published in press ridiculous."

The following fitting reply was forwarded by Chief of Police Blakemore:

"Jasper not lynched but made getaway. Police department has done everything possible to apprehend abductors. We believe in upholding the law and resent your implications this department is cooperating with law violators. Come to Huntsville and make your charges in person. Wo swore to uphold and defend the constitution when we took office. Can you say as much?"

The negro was taken from the jail when officers on duty went to investigate a mysterious telephone call to a nearby roadhouse. It is just possible that friends of the negro placed the call in order to help him escape, as he has not been located or any trace of him found yet.

The intent of the organization's protest undoubtedly is to play on the sympathy of those who are not getting a fair deal from society or those who imagine they are not. They stand out as the champion of the suppressed or unfortunates and thereby gain converts to their ranks. That type of convert is a handicap rather than an asset to any group, and that explains in part the radical and unpatriotic actions and doctrines of communistic organizations.

About the best way to cope with them is to ignore their protests

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NEW YORK TIMES

JUN 21 1931

ALABAMA RESENTS OUTSIDE AGITATION

Sees Danger in Interference by Northerners in Scottsboro Death Sentences.

FAIR TRIAL FOR NEGROES

Advocates of Commutation Fear Outsiders May Injure Cause—Communism Enters.

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES.

Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 18.—"Scottsboro," according to an Alabama editorial last Monday, "is significant of the whole task which lies before the South today; the task of preserving itself against the passions and misemployments of others, even as it cleanses itself of its own."

Alabamans in general feel that a prejudice as strong as any of which they themselves may have been guilty in the past has actuated some of the committees and individuals from outside the State who have concentrated funds and legal talent at Scottsboro in efforts to undo the death sentence passed upon eight Negroes convicted of criminal attack upon two white girls.

The crime charged against these Negroes is one which Southern law punishes with death and which Southern opinion holds the most serious in all the categories. The accused men were subjected to regular process of law and found guilty. Local opinion has considered the trial a fair one. That this opinion is not confined to a so-called "professional" Southern element, but is held by many persons who do not hesitate at times to take issue with their fellew-Southerners on matters involving their deepest feelings is evidenced in the attitude of Grover Hall, editor of The Montgomery Advertiser, and winner of a Pulitzer prize a few years ago for his editorial war upon the Ku Klux Klan.

Sees Threat to Court.

"There was no intimidation of the court and the jury from Jackson County people," he declared in an editorial last week. "The only attempt at intimidation came from New York, where Dreiser's idiotic committee is headquartered. That committee sent threatening telegrams to the judge. It was a fair and orderly procedure, from beginning to end, and under the laws of this State, the decision is just."

Another factor injected at Scottsboro which Alabamians resent is communism. They believe that the efforts of certain radical organizations to make the condemned Negroes appear as martyrs in a class struggle are vicious and assuredly misplaced. Interviews with the Negroes indicate no slightest conception on their parts of communism or interest in it.

It does not seem probable that local feeling against the outsiders who have come to Scottsboro in behalf of the condemned men will be permitted to run itself into such threats or acts of violence as would impede the continued orderly legal processes of the case. Alabama does not want to spoil its good mark—and it thinks it has one. But there is reason to believe that the outsiders, by their presence and activities, may be creating enough additional local hostility to the defense cause to impair any possibility of a commutation of the death sentences.

Commutation Discussed.

Talk of commutation has been based upon the conviction of many Alabamians that the youth of the accused and some of the circumstances under which the attacks were made warrant a measure of Executive clemency for them, even though it was proper and wise that they should receive death sentences from the court.

Some of the committees and individuals from outside the State are honestly convinced, no doubt, that Alabama is determined to execute these eight Negroes simply because they are Negroes and without regard to their guilt. Many Alabamians are just as honestly convinced that the outside committees and individuals are determined to save the accused men simply because they are Negroes and with an equal disregard of their guilt. The South, say these Alabamians, in effect, has often been the target for the lances of tilters with fine words on their tongues. Sometimes, they are willing to confess, the target has been fair, the tilting useful, and the words as pertinent as they were fine. But more and more in recent years, they believe, it has come to pass that the prejudice against which the lances were said to be leveled has shifted its substance from the target to the tilters. That shift, they believe, is eloquent in the present clamor at Scottsboro.

Scottsboro, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, June 11, 1931

A CAROLINA EDITOR ON THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

(Montgomery Advertiser)

In the following editorial The Charleston News and Courier discusses the affair of the eight Alabama negroes now under sentence for assault in Jackson County, with a sanity and discerment that are wholly characteristic of that great paper. We reproduce it in full that its weight may not be diminished by the attrition of paraphasing:

"Had the eight negroes under sentence of death in Scottsboro, Alabama, been tried in South Carolina, The News and Courier doubts if all of them would have been convicted. It doubts if any of them would have been executed. In this State, many a negro against whom stronger case has been made has escaped with his life, notwithstanding that many another has been done to death by a mob when he was not guilty.

"This opinion is subject to a proviso. The eight negroes would not have been put to death in South Carolina had South Carolina been permitted to deal with them as a sovereign State, not set upon and yelped at by all sorts of pestiferous often ignorant and sometimes vicious organizations and individuals in foreign parts. To South Carolina the people of other states are of "foreign parts" when they interfere with its administration, of justice.

"Whether it be right or wrong for societies of New York or Boston to engage in efforts to direct and modify our legal procedure in relation to the "race question," for example, we resent it. Any kind of organized movement in foreign parts to direct and control our ways of trying a criminal, white or black, would enrage us. In it would lurk a danger of maddening our people, of impairing their sense of proportion, of discernment, of causing them to "see red," to be blinded

"It occurs to The News and Courier, that were a delegation of the "best people" of Charleston, financed by a Charleston society, to go to Scottsboro to defend these negroes, it would probably defeat its purpose. The people of Alabama would say, "Why don't you mind your own business? Have you no crime in South Carolina? Who made you judge in Isreal? This is not your 'Isreal'."

"The Alamabians would go further and say: "The civilization of this commonwealth, good or bad, is ours. We do not want a civilization imposed upon us." The judicious, enlightened, thoughtful Alabamians, desirous of deliberate, thoroughgoing investigation of the Scottsboro case would proceed: "Oh well, what's the use? These intruders are firing the passion of our mobs. What can we do? We cannot work effectively with a New York society of negroes or with another of communists. If they are to handle the defense of the negroes, let them have it out with the insensate negro haters in our population and the demagogues who thrive on the race hatreds which we deplore in Alabama. If we interfere we simply sacrifice the influence that we have been trying to exert to improve conditions, the complexities which we think we understand better than the outsiders do. Deep in this Scottsboro case lie phases of a problem that the stangers not only do not perceive but which we would be hopeless of making clear to them. Alabama must be permitted to shape its own courses, to chart its own destiny, even to make its own blunders, some of them shocking and tragic. If we cannot have an Alabamian civilization homemade and distinctive in its intergrity, no other kind is desirable. If 'Americanism' means the warping of Alabama's movements to the will of foreigners, to that extent we are not Americans.'

"Anyway, that is how South Carolina would feel in like circumstances and one suspects that other states are of similiar mind. Massachusetts has probably learned a lesson in the Sacco and Vanzetti case which it ought to have learned eighty years ago and will not forget in many a long time.

"From the little that The News and Courier has been able to learn from conflicting courts, the hope is formed in it that the eight negroes will not be executed, but it cannot advance the hope's realization by suggesting that the courts of Alabama are degraded and cruel, and that the juries are composed of barbarians, that the respectable and informed people are poltroons and cowards, and that this indictment of them would be proved should the sentence of the Scottsboro court be carried out."

The Advertiser begs to assure The News and Courier that in its oponion the condemned men had a fair trial under the laws of Alabama.

They are guilty as any men that ever faced the electric chair.

Every safeguard was thrown around them. The sheriff of Jackson County acted with courage and speed in protecting the accused from possible violence. He deputized a number of the leading citizens of his town to stand by his side and let any mob that might arise know that somebody would suffer if violence was attempted.

A special term of the grand jury was thereupon called, and the indictment followed. When they were put to trial the National Guard was on hand, the presiding judge acted with decision to keep the courtroom under control, and free of any suggestion of intimidation.

There were eight convictions and one mistrial.

And Jackson County was applauded by the anti-mob citizens of Alabama

In any other Southern State except Alabama or Virginia these men would not have lived to be indicted.

Lynchings-1931
6

Alabama

3401

Legal Punishment for Rape.

CHANGING BLACK TO RED.

N.Y. Age
New York, N.Y.
7-25-31

There appears to be a concerted effort on the part of widely separated forces to convert the black citizens of this country into what is popularly known as Reds that is to drive them into affiliation with the Communistic party. First in this effort were the communist agitators who began their work of propagation some years ago in the South, although so earnest and conscientious a disciple as the late John Reid was inclined to give up the task in despair, as he declared it was almost impossible to convert Negroes to acceptance of communistic doctrines. But the present leaders of the group have continued their efforts, largely through the instrumentality of the International Labor Defense, which has championed the cause of the eight Negro youths sentenced to death at Scottsboro, Alabama.

The second force to further this attempt to turn Negroes Red is the action of Southern local and state authorities in dealing with any effort on the part of the race to unite to better conditions economically or otherwise. When the Negro croppers, or tenant farmers, near Camp Hill, Alabama, tried to form a society or union, to protest against the state of peonage into which they were kept, their meeting was invaded by the local police. Shooting followed, in which the Sheriff was wounded one Negro reported killed, and five wounded. To justify this violence, the meeting was denounced as a Red outbreak, and the news dispatches to Northern papers featured it as "Negro Reds Resist Attack."

The Southern authorities are acute enough to sense that if they can paint any organized effort on the part of Negroes to better their conditions as a Red uprising, they will array outside sympathy on their side and then can go to the greatest lengths in suppressing such movements without challenging the public sentiment of the nation. That ample ground exists for such movements to secure better condition was proved in the Arkansas cases a few years ago, where violence was employed to surpress such a movement and several of the leaders were condemned to death on some ridiculous charge of rioting. A similar movement was reported in Mississippi a month or so ago, which seems to have been surpressed so ruthlessly as to have escaped newspaper notice.

There was also an attempt to connect this meeting at Camp Hill with the movement to obtain a new trial for the eight Negro youths sentenced to death at Scottsboro, evidently with the intention to prejudice the appeal in that matter. Even if the meeting in question had adopted a protest against the summary trial and conviction of the eight accused of rape, that in itself would not constitute just cause for police intervention, so the charge of communism was added for extra color.

This invasion by the authorities of Alabama of the right of citizens to gather peaceably in assembly to organize for economic betterment and to appeal for justice from the courts, has brought out further protest on the part of individuals and organizations without the state. Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, sent a telegram to Governor Miller of Alabama, urging him to direct his subordinates "to respect the rights of Negroes." The International Labor Defense announced that it had instructed its Southern office at Chattanooga to investigate the matter. It also said that it would provide legal defence for the Negroes placed under arrest at Camp Hill.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has undertaken the legal effort to secure a new trial for the Scottsboro prisoners, was inclined to condemn the Communists as having stirred up an outbreak in "a desperate and vain attempt to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat' to the Communist party." William Pickens, field secretary of the association, insisted that the Communists misunderstand the situation and the psychology of the American Negro of the South. He was quoted as follows: "I am not opposing Communism as an economic philosophy; I am opposing it as a means for defending those eight Negro boys in the South. It would be the best means in the world for hanging them or getting them mobbed."

And so the struggle to change the Negro from black to Red goes on. It remains to be seen whether the Alabama courts are as shortsighted as the local and state authorities have shown themselves to be. The courts can help to make Reds just as readily as the sheriffs, as was shown in the Sacco-Vanzetti trials in Massachusetts and the Mooney-Billings case in California. It is hard enough to obtain justice in the courts for the Negro when his color is plain black. If he is also painted red, it will simply add to his handicap.

SPREADING THE VENOM OF RACE PREJUDICE ABROAD

Herald
Commonwealth
Baltimore Md
8-7-31

A judge Robert Sykes of Durham, N. C., shouldered the burden of giving universal southern approval of the trial and verdict by the Scottsboro Alabama Court in convictig eight Negro boys of rape of two hobo girls under circumstances unequalled by a lynching mob.

Judge Robert Sykes, it seems, is president of the Commercial Law League of America and met at Toronto, Canada last week, where the judge made his remarkable oratorical deliverance.

Speaking of the Scottsboro case the judge said:

"The reason such a cry was raised on their behalf was due to the people not being familiar with the evidence of the trial itself and the conditions in the South," he said. "There is a spirit of Communism breaking out there which appeals to the imagination of the Negro. It is a problem to handle as best we can.

"As far as I can see there was no animosity shown toward the Negroes on account of their race. They were given every opportunity to prove their innocence of a horrible crime which caused the people of the South to become highly inflamed. Of course, we have to contend with this in the South. We generally realize that a Negro is a citizen has property rights and has to be protected. As long as they will be decent, they will be treated fairly. There is a streak of savagery in them yet, so we can't allow them to do as they like."

Just why this man should go all the way toCanada to attempt to justify the legal butchers of Alabama is not easily understood.

Alabama is certainly on trial and needs defenders but it needs them far greater right here in the United States than in Canada.

The judge starts out with a lie, lies continually in the middle in every sentence of this quoted speech.

He knows that the women were women of low morals, unworthy of belief upon whose unsupported testimony no man should be railroaded to death: he should know also that the trial was conducted in a court filled and surrounded by a mob demanding the life of the boys. This "Judge" knows or ought to know that the very presence of a mob of 8,000 was evidence of "animosity" if it is possible in any way to show "animosity" during a trial.

He says there is a spirit of "Communism which appeals to the imagination of the Negro."

Communism does not find its origin and development in the "imagination" of the people of any race; it has its origin and is developed by injustice, oppression, legal murders and lynching. It does not appeal either to the imagination or the staid sober sense of the Negro he does not believe that it is the way out. He does not believe that through Communism he can hew his way through blood to freedom.

Men are driven to embrace Communism, however, who know its terrors black sa well as white, and Alabama and men like "judge" Sykes are contributing their full share towards its establishment in the South.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS

JUL 23 1931

Not "Temperament" This Time

To "The Nation," of New York, it is of interest that "in Russia, Cuba, South America and Europe there have been vigorous protests against the execution of eight negro boys in Scottsboro, Alabama, on the charge that they assaulted two young white women of admittedly loose character," that "in Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin, groups of Communists have demonstrated before the American consulates even smashing six windows of the offices of the consulate in Berlin." and it comments: "It is, unhappily, obvious that with the Southern temperament what it is, foreign protests will not nelp but injure the cause of the convicted negroes."

The conclusion is true ~~enough~~, the "cause" of the negroes will not be helped by the protests, but, this time "the Southern temperament" has nothing to do with the case. Nor has the crime of the negroes.

Surely The Nation, which The News and Courier believes to be not disingenuous, understands that the Communists protest the executions with the aim of attaching the Southern negroes to Communism and are probably not only indifferent to but ignorant of the accusations against them.

The demonstrations of Communists whether in Moscow, Berlin, or New York are against the American order, which happens to be the capitalistic order, with which the Communists are at war, they make no pretense to the contrary, and when they can hide behind American law as an entrenchment from which to attack it and blow it up, it is of their tactics to do so.

The people of New York or of Massachusetts quite well understand that the Communists would hang the judge who condemned the negroes in Scottsboro, the jury that convicted them, the governor of Alabama, and all members of the Alabama "bourgeoisie," hang them with what they would think a holy zeal, resorting meanwhile to treachery perjury, burglary and any other act which the "bourgeoisie" call crime if needful to assist in their campaign. For, from their point of view, not to be a Communist is to be a felon who, for the sake of the "proletariat," were better destroyed.

In short, whatsoever ordinary and normal Americans think of as virtues they denounce as criminal if it retard the Communistic advance, and the most grievous offence that negroes or white people in Alabama could commit, to their minds, is to abstain from murder, arson, robbery and anything destructive of "capitalism." Nor is The News and Courier saying that it is impossible for a Communist to be an honest zealot, however most of them are perhaps as selfish and sordid as are the numerous rascals in capitalistic society.

Hence, it is scarcely to be said that the Alabamans betray symptoms of "Southern temperament" when they pay no heed to Communists, for they know that these Communists would slit their throats if they could whether the eight negroes be punished or not—would slit their throats for foreclosing a mortgage, collecting a doctor's bill, or owning a ford. In this way of thinking an Alabaman is like a man from Maine as one pea is like another in the same pod, and it is surprising that The Nation, "Liberal" though it be, does not perceive it.

That in Alabama the penalty for assault of the kind of which the negroes were convicted is heavier than in some of the states is irrelevant—there are probably crimes under the statutes of New York wholly unknown to Alabama's criminal code. In Russia it would doubtless be a capital crime for an Alabaman to speak in public disrespectfully of the late Nicolai Lenin and his doctrines, and if an Alabaman sojourning in Moscow were so great a fool as to try an experiment of that character and to be shot for it, we South Carolinians, despite our "Southern temperament," would break no window glasses to protest his fate.

The Communists in Berlin should be sent to jail, not for "protesting" but for breaking window glasses. That habit should not be encouraged even when indulged in by Communists.

Home
Talladega, Ala
JUL 13 1931

IGNORANT EINSTEIN.

Ignorance of conditions and misinformation have led Albert Einstein, the famous German scientist, to join in a plea sent to Governor Miller from Berlin that he exercise clemency in the case of the eight negroes convicted at Scottsboro for assaulting two young white girls. Like most other outside action, the pleaders go on the assumption that the negroes' doom is near, when as a matter of fact, their cases have been carried to the supreme court with a request for a new trial, and that body, now in summer recess, will not take them up until next fall or winter. The fate of the negroes is not yet in the Governor's hands to take any action, if he was so disposed to do. While Professor Einstein's position in the realm of science is undisputed, that he has been led into this error by those who are using the Scottsboro case as a means of racial and class propaganda, shows that concerning the orderly process of law in the courts of Alabama he is very ignorant.

South Africa Protests Scottsboro Justice

Negro World
5-1-31
New York, N.Y.

JOHANNESBURGH, South Africa.—On Sunday, June 7th, at a mass meeting of black and white held at the City Hall steps, the following resolution was carried with acclamation.

"This mass meeting of black and white workers assembled at Johannesburg City Hall protests against the legal lynching of eight negroes at Scottsboro, Alabama, U. S. A., and demands their immediate release."

It was also decided at the meeting that the resolution be cabled to the Governor of Alabama, and that a copy of the cable be delivered to the American Consul in South Africa.

WALTER WHITE AND COMMUNISM

Washington, D.C.
Washington Tribune

In the warning delivered by Walter White at a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in its annual meeting at Pittsburgh against communism making inroads with the Negro, we wonder if it were a case of "sour grapes."

The N.A.A.C.P. has practically lost its battle in the Scottsboro case to the communists since they were better organized.

Through the efforts of the Communists, Germany has been aroused against the United States because of the Scottsboro case and Dr. Einstein went so far as to cable President Hoover regarding this case. Rebellion against the United States in several places has been noted and United States consuls have been warned that something must be done to save these eight black boys in Scottsboro, Alabama.

7-17-31

It is true that the Negro is unjustly treated in this country; it is true that this civilized Christian nation is woefully lacking in its humane treatment of the Negro; it is true that the Negro fails to obtain justice in the courts of this highly civilized Christian country. The Negro is aware of this. He is also aware of the fact that he is denied certain privileges and protection offered other citizens of this country. He doesn't have it; he is chaffing under it. He feels it keenly, and the Communists come along offering him relief. It is nothing more than human that he will attempt to try anything out and see what it is.

And so the Communists in the Scottsboro case simply beat the N.A.A.C.P. to it and Walter White's warning, although timely, we trust is not the case of "sour grapes."

Lynchings-1931
6.
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3402

DOTHAN, ALA.
EAGLE

MAY 26 1931

CIVILIZATION IN JACKSON

Eight of the ten Negroes charged with criminally assaulting ~~two white girls~~ aboard a freight train were tried in Scottsboro and sentenced to die. This has displeased the Negroes of Harlem and certain more or less prominent radicals in the East, including Theodore Dreiser. The effect of this has been to solidify Alabama public opinion.

During the trial some stories came out of Scottsboro that were distorted and untrue. Editor P. W. Campbell in his Jackson County Sentinel, of Scottsboro, burlesques some of this "news:"

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., Any time (by BS)—The Scottsboro "Kill a Nigger Club" reported an off week at the regular meeting today. Only 41 negroes were shot last week and it was suggested that marksmanship practice should be taken up immediately so that the weekly bag could be improved. The club reported that negroes were getting scarce and becoming hard to find as so many had been killed off that some sort of law should be passed to place a closed season on them for a while. The sheriff and officials were present at the meeting and offered assistance to the club at any time they might want it. The meeting closed by singing the club's theme song, "Bye Bye Blackbird."

* * *

Mayor Snodgrass and the City Council recently contracted with Major Al Capone of the Chicago Army, well known anatomy decorator and cemetery builder ,to come to Scottsboro to take charge of "Clean Up Week." Maj. Capone arrived yesterday but was afraid to get out and look the situation over after seeing two mountain boys playfully parting each other's hair with rifle shots at a distance of 400 yards from muleback and then joking about it over a cool glass of Coca-Cola. When interviewed by the editor at the depot, Maj. Capone said: "There are advantages in both places. Chicago and Jackson County. In Chicago we never know who we are going to kill—down here you just don't give a damn! Chicago is much more preferable, Mr. Campbell, come up to see me some time and we'll show you 'the works'."

* * *

The Scottsboro City Beautiful Club at a meeting Monday sent a vigorous protest to the Lynchers Club against the using of our beautiful maple trees for hanging purposes. The club in its protest says that the practice is becoming so common that our stately maples now resemble weeping willows because of the weight being hung upon them. The Lynchers replied since the telephone company put in the cable system and eliminated cross arms on the poles, that maples appear the logical thing, but that they would be careful next time to weight them down evenly all around so as not to destroy the contour of the tree.

* * *

Scottsbero's third big tombstone factory opened last month. It is equipped with an automatic carving machine which cuts the word "KILLED" into a stone in seven and a half minutes. This job formerly took two days hand labor of an expert carver. However, all is not gold that glitters, for last week a "natural death" order came in and the manager of the factory had to come up to the library to find how to spell "DIED."

* * *

Superintendent of Education J. F. Hodges states that Jackson County has made splendid progress in the different lines of education the past session. He says that the primary grades in machine gun operation and rifle shooting have been conducted in such a manner of high efficiency that only 1 teachers were accidentally killed during the session and these were teachers who were tired of their jobs, anyway. He says the senior classes in poison gas and tank warfare are graduating with honors and should be of great assistance in keeping our dear homeland before the American public. Superintendent Hodges said one of the most fascinating courses being taught this year is "Corrupt Practice, Its Usages and Benefits." This is a preliminary political course and teaches the Tennessee method of "displacement without consequence." Two of the graduates from this course are now preparing for careers in Tammany Hall or to study under Mr. Vare's school in Philly.

* * *

Little Willie Hinkle, who lives over in North Scottsboro, while playing with his pa's machine gun Monday afternoon let the thing go off five or six hundred times, and shot out nearly every window pane in that part of town. Luckily, no one was killed, being as most of the grown people were down at the city hall voting on whether murder should be a misdemeanor or just the regular $2.75 fine like speeding. Old Lady Gandy, who is past 90, was in bed next door to the Hinkle home and was in direct line of fire She said she kept noticing something kind of stinging her back but thought it was some of her greatgrandchildren shooting pins at her. After a while she turned over and found the bed half full of bullets that had stacked up against her. When interviewed by the editor of The Sentinel, she said: "It sure was lucky my skin was tough like that, for it most likely saved my life from them machine gun bullets. My skin has always been sorter tough. When I was a very young girl my folks moved into Scottsboro community when there wasn't anything here but Indians and tax collectors. The Indians captured me and the Big Chief tried to cut my throat with his knife but it could not even break my skin. When I recovered from my fainting spell I bit off both his ears, kicked him in the slats and in the rear of the slats, too, stripped off his robe of horsefeathers, and told him to travel and travel fast. He took his tribe and lit for Oklahomey and we were never bothered with Indians any more . There's the robe of horsefeathers hanging up there, Mr. Campbell ,take a look at it."

* * *

My friend, Harold Coffey, must cut one thing out of his writings! I will not have Sentinel readers referred to as "Gentle Reader!" Our readers are not gentle, they have never been gentle. They are good old rough and tumble, red blooded American men, women and children who fight before they get up, fight at breakfast, fight at dinner and fight at supper—and love it! "Gentle readers" could not stand this paper at all! It would be just like scratching their backs with a curry-comb. No, Harold, the readers are not gentle any more! They're hard and ready to call the editor names and 90 per cent of them could do just as well as he could if they would just try. There may be gentle readers in Birmingham down where you live but up here the only gentle critter is the rabbit—and some dog eats him up before the summer is over.

THE SENSITIVE MORAL NATURE OF THEODORE DREISER

Dawn, by Theodore Dreiser.
Horace Liveright. $5. 6-13-31

Only a really great man can loom through the pages of an intimate, utterly frank narrative of a pathetic childhood. In a detailed history of his earliest years up to and through his one year at the State university, telling of the futile dreams and struggles, the blind sexual desires, the formless ambitions of a bashful and self-depreciating boy, Dreiser the man appears detached and titanic. Of all his works this is the most mature.

Montgomery
Ala

It tells of Dreiser's father, who appears to have been a man of considerable ability, but whose business failure was due, at least in part, to his fanatical devotion to the Roman Catholic Church. Dreiser assails this church in bitter terms, especially its parochial schools which he and his brothers and sisters were at first compelled to attend. His mother came from a Dunkard (Mennonite) family; her personality fairly shines through the pages of this book.

The oldest brother, who became nationally known as Paul Dresser, author of "On the Banks of the Wabash," and whose mistress, the madam of a bagnio, at one time supported the Dreiser family, is a picturesque figure. But so are Rome, the ne'er-do-well, and Al, whom Dreiser loved most of his brothers, and Ed, the regulation American sap. More interesting, however, are the accounts of the sisters, whom Dreiser refers to—for reasons of his own, as he says—by fictitious names. Their experiences with men, their lovers and betrayers, are given exactly as these facts grew into the consciousness of the boy Theodore.

The boy's sense of wonder at life, his intense feeling for the beautiful, his curious and meditative ways—these qualities, the components of the writer he became—are shown clearly but without ostentation. The style is characteristic of Dreiser: it has the usual fulness, the usual repetitiveness and awkwardness, the usual flashes of heavy brilliance, the usual impression of sincerity and power. One can say without hesitation that "Dawn," is equal to the greatest of the autobiographies, the memoirs, the personal records in all literature and all languages.—Oakley Johnson, in Scribner's Magazine for June.

This is the same Dreiser who, in attempting to befriend eight Alabama Negroes under sentence of death for criminal assault upon two white girls in Jackson county, Alabama, is attacking the moral sense of white Alabamians as it manifests itself in the administration of justice.

The following circular letter has been widely distributed by Mr. Dreiser:

June, 1931.

Dear Friend:

May I write you concerning a National emergency?

The State of Alabama has set July 10 as the date for the judicial massacre of eight children. It took three days in all for a Scottsboro, Alabama, court to try, convict, and sentence these eight boys to death in the electric chair—lynching sublimated by legality.

The charge was rape. But the charge was an afterthought. The boys—Negroes, fourteen to twenty years of age—were arrested for stealing a ride on a freight train. The white girls, in overalls, were also found "hoboing" on this train. The Sheriff asked the girls if the Negro lads had molested them. They said no. But after a short stay in the Sheriff's custody, the girls made the charge. No time was allowed for an investigation or gathering of evidence. Yet the boys were sentenced to be executed, solely on the conflicting and unsubstantiated testimony * * * to the cheers of a mob of 10,000 and the music of a brass band.

Time is short. Eight lives are in imminent danger. We are organizing a committee to halt this judicial lynching. We are asking for funds to secure a new trial for the boys—and give them their chance to prove their innocence. Our committee is working in cooperation with the International Labor Defense which is defending the case; money is urgently needed for lawyers, investigators, minutes, and other inescapable expenses.

Won't you please contribute what you can, today? I am enclosing a slip to fill out and a return envelope.

THEODORE DREISER.

P. S. This is the first step of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, now in formation. The Scottsboro case is our immediate issue in our fight against the present epidemic of racial, industrial and political persecutions in our country. The Committee already includes Lincoln Steffens, Burton Rascoe, John Dos Passos, Suzanne LaFollette, and many others.

This is a slander of the people of Jackson county. The convicted men, five of whom had bad police records in Chattanooga, came into the freight car where the two girls and seven white youths were "bumming" a ride back from Chattanooga, whither the girls had been in fruitless search of employment. They engaged in a fight with the white youths, knocked one unconscious and threw the other six off the moving train. Witnesses testified that they saw some of the whites thrown off. The Negroes thereupon criminally assaulted the girls, according to the sworn testimony of the girls, who readily identified their assailants, according to the testimony of physicians who examined them, and according to the confessions of the Negroes themselves made to the sheriff of Jackson county before the trial. In court the defendants each attempted to blame the others.

The sheriff of Jackson prevented a lynching following arrest of the rapists by acting vigorously. By deputizing a number of the leading citizens of Scottsboro, he held the crowd in check until National Guardsmen, ordered out by the Governor, could arrive.

During the subsequent trial thousands of curious spectators swarmed in to town, but there was no threat of mob action. There was no trouble. Officers were in full command of the situation and the crowd fortunately lacked dangerous leadership. The presiding judge permitted only men to sit in the courtroom during the trial, and only so many of these as could be seated. All who were admitted were searched for arms. It does not appear that any guns were found.

The trial lasted four days instead of three. There were altogether four juries. One remained out all night before reaching a verdict. One remained out for a day before reaching a verdict. In one case there was a mistrial.

There was no intimidation of the court and the jury from Jackson county people —the only attempt at intimidation came from New York where Dreiser's idiotic committee is headquartered. That committee sent threatening telegrams to the Judge.

It was a fair and orderly procedure from beginning to end, and under the laws of this State the verdict is just. The conduct of the people of Scottsboro and Jackson county was so restrained and orderly throughout the trial, the treatment of the accused so fair, that all concerned were warmly commended by those Alabama newspapers which have long fought the mob spirit.

Dreiser's conduct is indecent and outrageous—as indecent and outrageous as his revolting autobiography, a review of which we quoted in the beginning of this article. We submit that a man whose desire to write a readable book is so strong that he will not scruple to blacken the name of his own family is hardly a fit man to sit in judgment on the moral standards of Alabamians.

NEWS
CHARLESTON, S. C.

JUN 9- 1931

Alabama, the Scottsboro Case

Had the eight negroes under sentence of death in Scottsboro, Alabama, been tried in South Carolina, The News and Courier doubts if all of them would have been convicted. It doubts if any of them would have been executed. In this state, many a negro against whom a stronger case has been made has escaped with his life, notwithstanding that many another has been done to death by a mob when he was not guilty.

This opinion is subject to a proviso. The eight negroes would not have been put to death in South Carolina had South Carolina been permitted to deal with them as a sovereign state, not set upon and yelped at by all sorts of pestiferous, often ignorant and sometimes vicious organizations and individuals in foreign parts. To South Carolina the people of other states are of "foreign parts" when they interfere with its administration of justice.

Whether it be right or wrong for societies of New York or Boston to engage in efforts to direct and modify our legal procedure in relation to the "race question," for example, we resent it. Any kind of organized movement in foreign parts to direct and control our ways of trying a criminal, white or black, would enrage us. In it would lurk a danger of maddening our people, of impairing their sense of proportion, of discernment, of causing them to "see red," to be blinded.

It occurs to The News and Courier, that were a delegation of the "best people" of Charleston, financed by a Charleston society, to go to Scottsboro to defend these negroes, it would probably defeat its purposes. The people of Alabama would say, "Why don't you mind your own business? Have you no crimes in South Carolina? Who made you judges in Israel? This is not your 'Israel'."

The Alabamans would go further and say: "The civilization of this commonwealth, good or bad, is ours. We do not want a civilization imposed upon us." The judicious, enlightened, thoughtful Alabamans, desirous of deliberate, thoroughgoing investigation of the Scottsboro case would proceed: "Oh, well, what's the use? These intruders are firing the passions of our mobs. What can we do? We cannot work effectively with a New York society of negroes or with another of communists. If they are to handle the defense of these negroes, let them fight it out with the insenate negro haters in our population and the demagogues who thrive on the race hatreds which we deplore in Alabama. If we interfere we simply sacrifice the influence that we have been trying to exert to improve conditions, the complexities of which we think we understand better than the outsiders do. Deep in this Scottsboro case lie phases of a problem that the strangers not only do not perceive but which we would be hopeless of making clear to them. Alabama must be permitted to shape its own courses, to chart its own destiny, even to make its own blunders, some of them shocking and tragic. If we cannot have an Alabamian civilization, homemade and distinctive in its integrity, no other kind is desirable. If 'Americanism' means the warping of Alabama's movements to the will of foreigners, to that extent we are not Americans."

Anyway, that is how South Carolina would feel in like circumstances, and one suspects that other states are of similar mind. Massachusetts has probably learned a lesson in the Sacco and Vanzetti case which it ought to have learned eighty years ago and will not forget in many a long time.

From the little that The News and Courier has been able to learn from conflicting accounts, the hope is formed in it that the eight negroes will not be executed, but it cannot advance the hope's realization by suggesting that the courts of Alabama are degraded and cruel, that the juries are composed of barbarians, that the respectable and informed people are poltroons and cowards, and that this indictment of them would be proved should the sentence of the Scottsboro court be carried out.

NEW YORK SUN

JUN 1 1 1931

Alabama to Saxony.

Eight Negroes are under sentence of death in Alabama for rape. They were tried in the State courts and will be punished in conformity with a statute of the State. The United States Government had nothing to do with enactment of that statute, with the judicial proceedings conducted under it, nor will it have anything to do with the procedure subsequent to the conviction of the accused men.

Notwithstanding the facts in the case it was selected by disorderly persons in Dresden, Germany, on Tuesday of this week as a suitable matter for display of antagonism to the United States. Their antipathy was demonstrated by the throwing of bottles through the first-floor windows of the Saxon State Bank building on the third floor of which the Consul of the United States has offices. The consular quarters were not harmed.

The sequence of occurrences is interesting. A crime is committed in one of the States of the Union, suspects were arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced under the law of that State without reference to or intervention by the United States; a number of disorderly persons in a foreign country thereby are inflamed to such a degree that to record their dissatisfaction they smash the glass in a building owned by one of their own nationals.

The affair is plainly an imitation of the disturbances carried out to inconvenience and injure United States diplomatic and consular offices when the State of Massachusetts tried and condemned two murderers who were executed in August, 1927. Members of the foreign service may well hope that all foreign "protests" against State prosecutions may be as remote from them in consequences as was this Dresden glass breaking.

Alabama.

3403

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Darrow Drops Fight to Save Eight Negroes, Refusing to Enter Case With Communists

Times

Special to The New York Times. 12-30-31

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 29.—After a disagreement over who would conduct the fight Jan. 21 in the Alabama Supreme Court for new trials for eight Negroes under death sentence for alleged attacks on two white girls, Clarence Darrow left at noon today for Chicago and Arthur Garfield Hays will leave tonight for New Orleans. 12-30-31

They had conferred last night and today with George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, Tenn., and associates. Mr. Chamlee was retained by the International Labor Defense and Mr. Darow and Mr. Hays by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

New York N.Y.

Before leaving Mr. Darrow declared he would not consider entering the case in any connection with any Communist organization and Mr. Hays expressed himself similarly. Mr. Hays indicated, however, that he and Mr. Darrow might be willing to drop their connections with the National Association for Advancement of Colored People if the other attorneys would make a corresponding concession.

The International Labor Defense counsel said this would be impossible and that Mr. Darrow and Mr Hays will not participate in the Scottsboro trials unless some agreement is made without concession on the part of the labor representatives.

Five attorneys retained by the Communist body filed their names with the Supreme Court at Montgomery yesterday as attorneys for the Negroes and then returned here to resume their effort to get Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays to agree to become associate counsel. The conferences ended when Mr. Darrow left.

Lynchings 1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

3404

NAACP ATTORNEY GOES CRAZY

The Liberator

Attacks Wife with Axe; Put In Madhouse

I.L.D. ATTORNEY MAKES MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL ON GROUNDS THAT SCOTTSBORO BOYS WERE REPRESENTED BY A MADMAN AT TRIAL

8-22-31

CHATTANNOGA, Tenn., Aug. 18, (CNA).—Steve Roddy, Ku Klux Klan attorney and the chief counsel in the trial of the 9 Scottsbroo boys, for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has become violently mad. He tried to murder his wife with an axe and has been removed to an asylum in Missouri by his father. New York, N.Y.

Th International Labor Defense, which is supplying legal defense for the 9 Scottsboro boys, has had its attorney, Gen. George W. Chamlee to file motions for a new trial n the grunds that the boys were represented by a madman in their first trial.

It will be remembered that it was on this particular issue, Roddy acting as counsel against the wishes of the parents and the boys, and that he was a member of the KKK, also that he was a drunkard and was unfit and not to be trusted with the lives and liberties of the boys, that the ILD and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights strenuously objected. But over and above the objections of the two workingclass organizations and the parents of the boys, the NAACP insisted upon trying to keep this filthy scoundrel in the case.

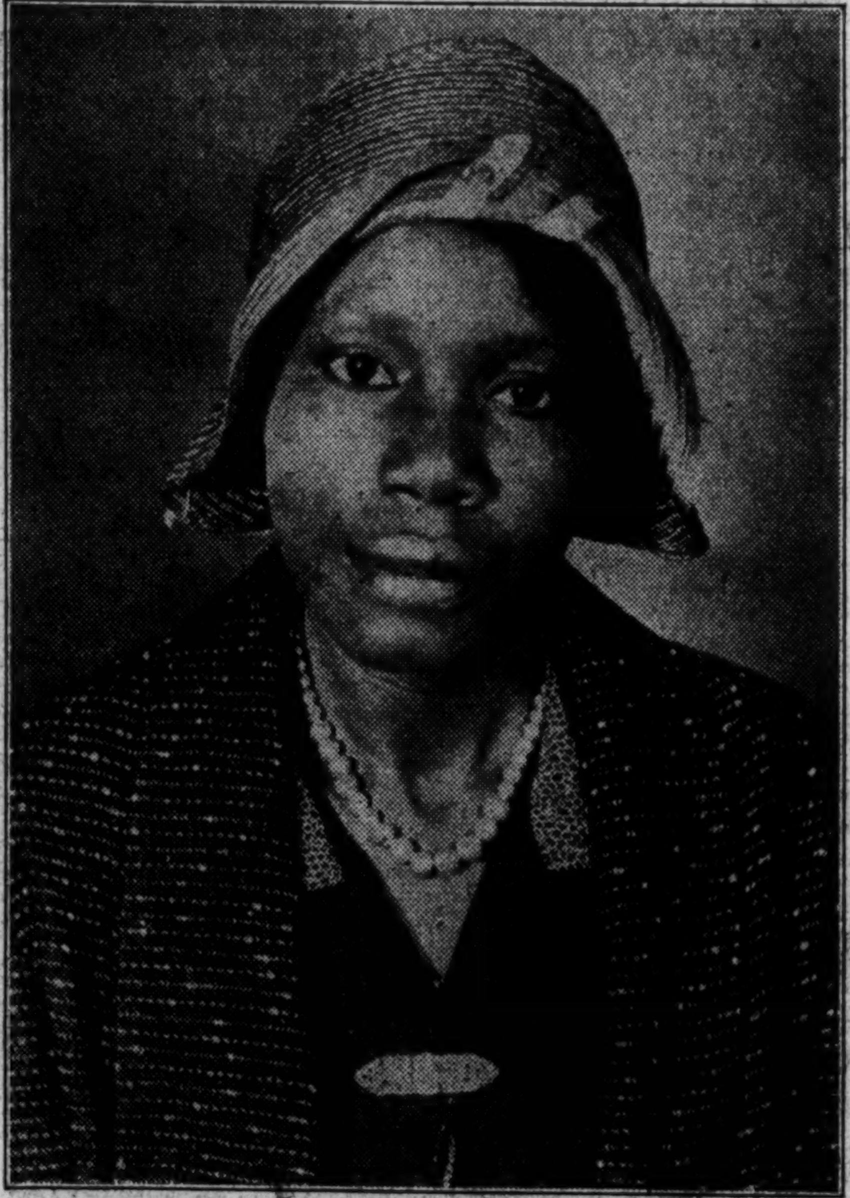
Just recently Beddow, over whom the NAACP made a big hullaballoo, resigned from the case, because according to reports that he had no clients. All during the struggle to save the boys, the parents as well as the boys have stood firmly by the ILD and LSNR who have been building a genuine mass defense movement in their interests. Following this move of Beddow, the turning mad of Roddy correctly points out the position of the ILD and LSNR wh refused to consent to have the boys represented by such debauched counsel as Roddy.

The policy of the NAACP has been sharply attacked and exposed as one that did not have at interest the saving of the boys but one which chose to attack in a most vicious manner the organizations that were building up the mass defense movement and arousing the indignation of the Negro and white toiling masses to protest against the attempted burning in the Electric chair.

The Negro and white workers and the masses of people must join together and continue to build a powerful mass defense movement. On August 22nd thousands must take the streets to demonstrate against the imprisonment and the attempt of the Alabama bosses and their courts to railroad these boys to the electric chair.

MRS. VIOLA MONTGOMERY, mother of Olin Montgomery, 17, the youngest of the Scottsboro boys now awaiting a new trial in an Alabama jail, has been making speeches throughout the city during the past week in interest of the convicted lads. What mother's heart does not go out to this woman who carries her burden of sorrow with a forced smile? Call 9-4-31

Kansas City Mo.



—Williams Photo.

MOTHER FROM SCOTTSBORO IN PLEA

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ible Conditions in Alabama Told to Local Audience

rs. Viola Montgomery, Monroe, ., mother of the youngest of the ght boys held in the Scottsboro se, spoke at a public meeting held t the hall at 1904 Brooklyn, last onday night in which she told of ome of the horrors of the situation now developing in Alabama over the case.

Mrs. Montgomery spoke Sunday at a number of the local churches and a total donation of $63.71 was reported. The meeting was held under the auspices of the International Labor Defence. A. W. Berry acted as master of ceremonies, and John Dawson, member of the Communist party and district secretary of the trade union here shared the program with Mrs. Montgomery as principal speaker.

Albert Graves, local member of the I. L. D., and Mrs. Marie Harrison, 812 Wyandotte, district secretary and organizer were the other speakers on the program. The meeting was then turned into an open forum at which time persons in the audience asked questions on the case or expressed some opinion. At this meeting, $7.33 was raised for the defense fund.

Scottsboro Fund Now $5,208.29

This Amount Already Received by N. A. A. C. P

[illegible]

New York, Aug. 28—The total amount in the Scottsboro defense fund received up to and including August 25 by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is $5,208.29, the National office here at 69 Fifth Ave., announced today. 9-3-31

Total expenses to date including attorney's fees, investigators, printing, postage telegrams, long distance telephone calls and other items are $4,654.09, leaving a balance in the fund of 554.20. [illegible]

"The support of our branches and the general public so far has been gratifying," said Secretary Walter White of the Association. "We want to remind our branches and friends, however, that the fight has just begun. The fee for the law firm we have engaged is one of the highest the Association has ever paid. The tense racial situation in Alabama and the strife which has been raised by this case make it necessary that the association not be hampered at any point by lack of funds to take advantage of favorable situations as they arise or to meet crisis that may develop overnight. Our contributors should bear in mind that under the rules of the association, not a penny of this money can be used for anything except legal defense and they need have no fear that the money will go for some other purpose."

The contributions from July 31st to August 25th are: Chaute, Kans. branch, $59.91; LaMott Club, Pa., $20; Mrs. Matthew Henson, New York City, $5; St. Paul A. M. E. Church, Florence, Ala., $5; Jersey City branch, $64.92; Hour of Pleasure Club, Sioux City, Ia., $5; Eldorado, Kansas branch, $10; Miss Irene C. Malvin, New York City, $4; Orange N. J. branch, $218.29; Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, Pittsburgh, Pa., $5; J. H. Stover, New York City, $.05; Musketon, Michigan branch, $5; Mrs. Roswell Skeel, Jr. Vineyard Haven, Mass., $25; Women's N. A. A. C. P. Committee, New York City $326; Montclair, N. J., branch, $110.89; Albuquerque, N. M. branch, $29.17; District of Columbia branch, $2; Bryn Mawr, Pa., branch, $12.73; Mississippi Colored Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, $14; Kansas City, Kans., branch $4.24; Los Angeles, Cal., branch, citizens and other organizations. $666.89. Total for this period, $1,593.09 Previously reported, $3,615.20. Total receipts to August 25, $5,208.29. Expenses to August 25, $4,654.09. Balance in fund $554.20.

MORE DONORS TO SCOTTSBORO DEFENSE

Tribune

Tot. Contributions Amount to $3,615.20

8-10-31

New York, July 31—From every part of the United States and from all classes of colored and white people contributions are being sent to aid in the defense of the nine boys tried at Scottsboro in April, eight of whom were sentenced to death, and whose appeals are now pending before the Alabama Supreme Court.

Savannah

The total contributions to date are $3,615.20 and expenditures, including attorneys' fees, investigators, printing, postage, telegrams, long distance telephone calls, and other items total $3,806.17.

In making public the additional list of contributions the N. A. A. C. P. pointed out that these contributions have come from as widely separated areas as Arkansas, Alabama, Arizona, Kentucky, West Va., New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Texas, Pennsylvania.

Contributors since the last report made by the N. A. A. C. P. are: Reading, Pa., branch N. A. A. C. P., $11; Prince Hall Square Club, N. Y., $10; San Antonio, Tex. Business League, $5; Atlantic City, N. J., branch N. A. A. C. P., $120.52; Southland Branch N. A. A. C. P., Lexa, Ark., $16; The Dothan, Ala. Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, $5; Northern California Branch N. A. A. C. P. (including $75 contributed by employees of Stephens' Restaurant) $119; Cecelia Cabaniss Saunders, N. Y., $10; John D. Washington and Dr. William H. Foster, Phoenix, Ariz., $10; W. E. Mitchell, Ansley, Ala., $2.30; Baxter Springs, Kans. Branch N. A. A. C. P. $11.15; Mrs. E. R. Mathews, N. Y., $10; Hopkinsville, Ky. Civic League $3; Salt Lake City Branch N. A. A. C. P. $10; Rev. Francis J. Grimke, Washington, D. C., $10; Buffalo, N. Y. Branch N. A. A. C. P., $143.04; Montgomery, W. Va., Branch N. A. A. C. P., $10.75; New Hope Baptist Church, Whipple, W. Va., $4; Head waiter, officers and waiters of Atlantic City N. J. Casino, $15; Willing Workers Club, Mullen, W. Va., $10; First Baptist Church, Riverside, N. J., $5; Wichita, Kans, Branch N. A. C. P. collections at churches, $31; Mrs. V. A. Goode, Washington, D. C., $5; Walter White, New York City, $10; Union Baptist Church. Elizabeth, N. J., $8; Richetta G. Randolph, New York, $5; Pueblo, Colo., Branch N. A. A. C. P $2; The Tennessee State Club of Chicago, Ill., $35.50; William Pickens New York, $5; William T. Andrews New York, $4.

THE N. A. A. C. P. AND THE NEGRO'S RIGHTS

We are in full accord with the objects and purposes of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. We believe that it is the proper organization which should play the leading part in the defense of the eight Negro youths, who charged with rape, are under death sentence at Scottsboro, Alabama. We take this position because the N. A. A. C. P. is well organized and has the confidence and respect of not only its members and admirers, but of city officials and law enforcement officers thruout the country. It has won this respect by its conduct of many legal battles in which the civil and political rights of the Negroes were at stake. It is not what is known as a radical organization, but its militancy has never been justly questioned.

The public will take little stock in the propaganda which is being spread by the International Labor Defense to the effect that the N. A. A. C. P. is not sincere in its efforts to defend the Negro youths at Scottsboro. Its record is too well known among all classes of people for the I. L. D. or any other such organization to shake the public's confidence.

Argus

On the other hand, we believe that the methods which are being used by the I. L. D. in its defense of these youths are detrimental to their welfare, and will result only in their conviction and finally execution because of the antagonism which is being aroused by the I. L. D. followers.

8-14-31

Of course, we are all interested in this case. In fact, everybody who knows of the case and believes in right and justice is interested. All we want is fair play for the condemned youths, and we believe that, if encouraged and helped, the N. A. A. C. P. will get that for them. We do not believe that this can be obtained through threatening or bulldozing public officials. The law and an appeal to reason will win if there is anything which will win.

Just as Darrow did in the Sweet case, so must these cases be defended along the same line. Just as the N. A. A. C. P. spared no pains in the defense of the Sweet case and won, so it will do in this case if encouraged and helped

St. Louis, Mo.

Therefore, we cast our lot with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in its defense of the eight Negro youths in the Scottsboro case who are under death sentence and we urge all persons who desire to aid these victims, financially, to make their contributions through the N. A. A. C. P.

$425 IS RAISED FOR N. A. A. C. P

Informer

New York City.—Duke Ellington's Orchestra in a benefit performance given last week in Washington, D. C. for the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, raised the net sum of $425.51, which has been received at the national office for use in defending the Scottsboro cases.

10-31-31

The Howard Theatre, managed by Shepard Allen and the Masonic Temple, managed by Daniel M. Gray, cooperated with Mr. Ellington in his effort in behalf of the N. A. A. C. P., Mr. Allen making daily announcements from the stage of the coming event, and Mr. Gary donating the use of the auditorium with its corps of employees. Others who gave valuable aid in the affair were: J. Finley Wilson, Joseph Maxwell, Frank S. Reid, Edward W. Brooks, Rutherford B. Johnson and L. Lloyd Burrell.

Houston, Tex.

The Washington branch is launching a movement with the slogan "Don't spend your money where you can't work," with the intention of opening up new jobs for colored men and women in business and enterprises serving colored patrons. This program was presented to the branch by its president, Miss E. F. G. Merritt, and the board of directors, expressing enthusiasm at the project, unanimously elected J. A. G. LuValle to direct the campaign for jobs.

ARTHUR HAYS ENTERS CASE

Journal

New York, Oct. 23—Arthur Garfield Hays, one of the celebrated liberal attorneys of the country, has volunteered to enter the Scottsboro cases as associate counsel, giving his services without charge to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the defense of the 8 boys sentenced to death.

10-24-31

Mr. Hays will act with Clarence Darrow, with whom he has served as associate in many epoch-making legal battles, including the famous evolution trial in Tennessee.

In the celebrated Sweet case in Detroit, where the N. A. A. C. P. successfully championed a colored man's rights to defend his home from mob segregation, Mr. Hays served with Mr. Darrow and the other counsel retained by the N. A. A. C. P.

Journal,

Mr. Hays is the author of "Let Freedom Ring," a book telling of celebrated cases which involve the issue of civil liberty. He is one of the counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Okla.

With Mr. Hays in the Scottsboro case, the N. A. A. C. P. will have one of the most formidable arrays of counsel that could be obtained to defend the victims of Alabama race prejudice.

Lynchings - 1931

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Florida.

3500

Negro Gets Death.

MIAMI, Fla., April 27.—(AP)—James Collins, negro, convicted by a circuit court late last week of charges of criminal assault on a white woman during a robbery October 20, 1929, was sentenced to death in the electric chair by Judge H. F. Atkinson today.

Constitution
4-28-31
Atlanta Ga.

Lynchings-1931

General

3505

Legal Punishment for Rape.

JUSTICE STILL LIVES

In the midst of reports of lynchings, discrimination and prejudice darkening our skies of racial hope, there comes occasionally a ray of sunlight indicating that Justice, though long suppressed, still lives even in the benighted Southland. Two cases, one from Florida and the other from the more civilized Virginia, read almost like fiction in their details of fairness to black defendants accused of serious crimes.

Case and Post

A Florida Negro wrests the pistol from the hands of one of two white men who were beating him to enforce payment of a usurious debt, and kills one of his assailants. He sets up the plea of self defense supported only by his own testimony and opposed by the denial of the surviving white bully.

7-25-31

According to the ordinary principles of Southern justice on the long outworn Dred Scott decision, but which is still the unwritten law of the South, "a Negro has no rights that a white man is bound to respect," the accused Negro should have been speedily convicted and executed or given over to the hands of the lynchers. However, strange to relate, a Daniel came to judgment, and in Florida, a Southern Judge believed the word ~~of the Negro~~ rather than that of the white man and freed ~~him of the~~ charge of murder. And equally strange, the acquitted Negro has not yet been lynched or even beaten and run out of town.

Cleveland, Ohio

In Virginia the case of William Harper who was charged with the rape of a ~~married white~~ woman in Norfolk, has finally been cleared up, and wonder of wonders, the lying white hussy is publicly branded as a cheap adultress, and is tried, convicted and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for perjury. And all of this took place in a Southern State before a Southern Judge and a jury of Southern white men.

At Harper's first trial he was convicted of the crime of rape, but the consciences of certain white people were so touched, that they went to th authorities and voluntarily made affidavits showing that the testimony of the Skaggs woman and the "confession" of the frightened Harper were equally untrue. Public opinion was strongly divided but right triumphed and Harper was snatched from the shadow of the death chair, and given a new trial at which he was acquitted. But the powers of darkness died hard, and scarcely had Harper been released from prison before he was again indicted on a charge of robbery, which like rape, carries the death penalty according to the Virginia law. The cooler heads and better judicial minds, in spite of opposition, had this second trumped up charge against Harper dismissed, and he was again free.

White dailies joined with a colored weekly and demanded punishment for this contemptible perjuring harlot who had used the old cry of "the Negro did it" to cover up an act of adultery with a white boy friend. Public opinion again led the way, and a special grand jury of the best citizens of Virginia returned indictments against Dorothy Skaggs and despite tremendous opposition, she was brought to trial, convicted and sentenced.

Coming from two widely separated sections of the South, these astounding events herald a new attitude of justice for the Negro. Whether this attitude has come about through interracial movements, through the N. A. A. C. P. propaganda, through the Church or through some supernatural or divine interposition, we cannot say; but we believe that the tide has turned, and we pray that this tide of aroused justice shall sweep aside all the barriers of judicial prejudice in the South. Enthused and re-invigorated by this breath of hope, we shall continue to increase our efforts in that Titanic struggle to save the black martyrs of Scottsboro, hoping and believing that the day of miracles has not yet passed and that justice still lives.—Newark Herald.

Lynchings-1931

Georgia

3501

Legal Punishment for Rape.

DOWNER APPEALS CASE TO U. S. HIGH COURT

Constitution 6-23-31

Hearing To Be Delayed Until October as Court Is in Summer Recess.

Atlanta, Ga.

NEW ORLEANS, June 22.—(AP)—Oakley F. Dodd, clerk, received in the United States circuit court of appeals the record in the case of John Downer, Georgia negro, condemned to die on the conviction of assault on a white woman at Elberton, Ga. He said the appeal probably would not be taken up until October.

He explained that the court was in summer recess which would last until sometime in October.

Attorneys in behalf of the negro are seeking a test of constitutional rights and the appeal was granted in a decision of Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver, of Macon, Ga., who refused to grant a writ of habeas corpus for Downer when action was brought against B. H. Dunaway, Georgia penitentiary superintendent. The writ was sought on the grounds that Downer was being deprived of his liberty in violation of the constitution.

Troops were on duty during the negro's trial, and Downer's counsel contends the defendant was deprived of his constitutional rights in the circumstances under which the trial was held.

The Trial of John Downer
Elberton, Georgia

The Christian Index

7-9-31

By J. A. Martin

In August Magazine

Jackson, Tenn.

Vol. 61 - No. 26

The accusal of John Downer, the mob of nearly or quite 3,000 bent upon burning him at the stake; the attempt to do this without any semblance of trial before a court of justice; and the fact that these felt that the officers of the law would not object to their brutal carnival is nothing out of the *usual* in the state of Georgia, and has been so for more than sixty years. Whatever may be the facts, the Georgia whites have no hesitancy in attemping to lynch or burn "a Negro" if he is only slightly accused of "raping or in any way insulting a white woman." That 3,000 of the mob made up themselves out of the three counties—Elbert, Lincoln and Washington—within less than three hours after the report of the assault, passes without comment. The farmer and farm hand, the factory laborer, the loafers around the streets, the merchant hunting and hungry for crime, the nervous professional and the general public that hate Negroes joined this mob, and for hours attempted to turn the hands of civilization back.

The Unusual

While all know the history of Georgia, and all of our lynching states for that matter, we are less concerned about old attitudes, and the resulting behavior, as bad and horrible as they have been and are at present, than we are about the *unusual* that took place in Elberton upon the part of the state troops upon the night that the mob attempted to break the jail and lynch or burn John Downer. The "Unusual," however, happened in Georgia. The troops *"shot the mobbists"* and dispersed them within less than an hour. The police officers, the sheriff and deputies, together with good citizens stood firm in their determination that the accused should no be killed without going before a Georgia court of justice. These facts stand out to the everlasting credit of the officers and the troops.

This one act shows the sign of that growing respect for law and order. It shows what Georgia or any other state can do if it orders its troops "to shoot" the mob that atemepts to take the law into its hands. In this matter, we are commending our state for this one and the first example of using drastic means to break up mobs. The water hose, turned on mobs as the usual custom, was first tried in Elberton, but the mob as usual turned it into a joke, paid no heed to water. It took nothing but real fire to teach that lesson of reverence for law. When the troops shot down two of the mob and put them in jail the example struck fear into the hearts of 3,000 of those so very anxious for blood, and they returned home just as orderly as men could with the fear of being arrested. The Georgia people were very greatly encouraged generally, while Negroes in particular took on fresh courage and with the feeling that our state is rising to the dignity of statehood. Negroes have always known that the state needed only to shoot into mobs, and this would settle them, and mob violence would cease immediately.

When the judge called an extra session of court, we find that he appointed two lawyers to defend John Downer. The jury was composed of twelve men. It was found that some of these had formerly been in the 3,000 mobbists. Certainly, there could be no fair trial however conscientious the judge, attorney general or the lawyers that were appointed to defend John Downer. The mob in part, without intention was brought from the streets and performed what Judge Park calls "a legal lynching." Here, we have the *usual* verdict of "guilty" within five minutes; here, we have the court under duress of the mob; here, we find a good judge who desires justice with his hands tied with not only the psychology of a mobbist sentiment that has existed for more than two generations, but men upon the jury with black murder in their hearts; here, we find two lawyers who must be ostracized if they put up a decent defense for a man tried for his life; here, we find defense lawyers afraid to cross examine the state witnesses; here, we find these lawyers afraid to ask for a change of venue, even though the prisoner must be tried under the protection of state troops in order to prevent a lynching in the very court house where the prisoner was being tried; here, we find defense lawyers afraid to offer motion for new trial. In short, the court was without power to administer justice. Sixty-six years of "Mob Rule" overshadowed a good judge, and other officials who desired that the truth should be established. This was another element of the usual that has characterized Georgia's mis-rule and bad government or better no government when Negroes are involved with whites. But here again, comes the *"unusual;"* a Negro attorney, Capt. A. T. Walden, assisted by four young white lawyers who volunteered their services free, and took up the case. Being prevented, by legal technicality, to enter the first floor of the state court and ask for a new trial, or better a real trial, they went before the United States Court with a writ of *Habeas Corpus.* This writ was denied but the judge granted an appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. This step was taken upon the grounds that "the 14th Amendment of the Federal Constitution warrants a fair trial of all citizens." This step prevented John Downer from going to the electric chair until the United States Courts reviews the evidence and decides whether there was a real court that tried John Downer, or whether there can be a real court of justice carried on in a community where the presence of state troops is required to prevent a lynching right under the eyes of a judge and jury. In this matter of appeal, we can scarcely realize in a mental picture: a fact that actually exists—"four young and trained white lawyers" who enter this case for the reason that they "tremble for justice when such trials as that of John Downer are permitted in a supposed civilized land." Yet, their appearance is just the thing that should happen. This is the second element in the entire matter that goes to further hearten black people, and to restore order and assure the white people that ours must be a government of law. In short, the troops broke up the physical and bloody mobbists, while the lawyers will help to break up coerced courts. Here, we find ourselves jubilant over what should be an ordinary matter in a civilized country. This is a day when relative courage must be applauded with open hands. It shows how far we have "come up," and points the direction of a safe course and orderly government, otherwise we would scarcely "look up" and comment upon the courage of the troops and the volunteered services of these learned lawyers led by Capt. Walden. In short, we are living to see the transition taking place right under our eyes in matters of inter-racial justice. It is just as real as the passing of the "ox cart days" in the face of "automobile service."

What Will Be Strange?

That our Nation and the several states could have gone sixty-six years with fourteen states lynching any one of its ten millions of black citizens whenever the mob desired, and that the states nor the Nation attempted to bring the mobbists to justice, will be one of the strangest facts of history, not even surpassed by slavery itself. This is especially true when we boast of a free country; a country that has the gospel preached; a country that sends tons of money to what it is pleased to call: "a heathen land;" and a country that prides itslef in loving freedom more than its very soul. The young will ask: "How happened this fact in a land that has waged war around the world in defense of freedom?" Our only answer can be: "Human depravity; mistaken ideas of racial superiority, racial inferiority, and a Christianty that has never known its mission in the world; a Christianity that has followed maudlin sentiment, placing all emphasis upon a glory land beyond, and a Christianity that has made religion hardly more than a declaration of "what I believe." But despite what will be strange, is that outstanding cure of this very ill which is evidenced in the two steps—the guns of the troops in shooting the mob, and that of the lawyers in offering the remedy in protecting the courts. These must be reinforced by the pulpits of our land. The great churches must add the third step—they must preach the "doing of God's word," they must preach that earthly message of salvation: *Here* and *Now.*

MACON, GA.
TELEGRAPH

NOV 22 1931

The Downer Case

In ruling that a writ of habeas corpus ought to have been granted and the federal court ought to have held a hearing to determine the fairnes of the trial granted John Downer, the Elberton Negro accused of rape, the circuit court of ~~appeals~~ upheld the general contention of the counsel for Downer that, regardless of the guilt or innocence of the defendant, a fair trial such as the law contemplates is not possible in an atmosphere so surcharged with passion that it is necessary to have a military company stand guard while a trial proceeds.

That contention, sustained as it is, marks a new high water mark for our conception of justice in the South where lynchings are involved. In the past, we have prided ourselves upon the fact that in some cases we are able to hold formal trials for Negro prisoners accused of assault. It has not mattered so much whether the prisoners were guilty or not; what did matter was that we went through the form of a trial. That is not sufficient any more and the circuit court of appeals has helped to establish its insufficiency.

In the future, that court said, we must give prisoners not only the form of a fair trial, but the substance of a fair trial. That involves the selection of a jury from among a people whose minds are actually impartial as between the state and the accused; who are not in the mood for a "judicial lynching" when they go into the jury box. To obtain a jury of that sort, it is necessary for judges to grant changes of venue, particularly if they want speedy trials of the accused.

It will be said, of course, that the ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals will have the effect of delaying the execution of Downer and thereby inciting and irritating that element which usually lynches. We do not want delay in the execution of justice any more than anybody else, but the Fort commission which studied lynching said a few days ago that at least half those who are lynched are not at all guilty. Before we put Downer or any other defendant to death, this paper would like to know that he is guilty. We can not be satisfied about that until we are satisfied that he has been fairly tried.

It is necessary that even the lowliest and even the meanest and even the beastliest prisoner before the bar should have a fair trial. Our whole structure of criminal justice is built upon that. If prosecutors can take advantage of passion and prejudice and all the grosser qualities of human nature to distort the picture of a crime, nobody is safe.

Hasty Trials Inspired By Violence Attacked

NOV 21 1931

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Nov. 20.—(AP)—Sharp criticism of hasty trials inspired by threatened mob violence was voiced by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals today as the Court intervened in the case of John Downer, Georgia negro under sentence of death for criminal assault on a white woman.

The court upheld Downer's plea for a writ of habeas corpus directed against B. H. Dunaway, superintendent of the Georgia State Prison and ordered prompt hearing on his allegations that he was deprived of constitutional rights in being tried, convicted and sentenced hastily in Elbert County, Georgia Superior Court where troops were required to keep a threatening mob under control.

The ruling, in effect, granted a new trial, the court declaring "a trial conducted as this one is alleged to have been cannot be other than void."

Lynchings-1931

Georgia

3502

Legal Punishment for Rape

Asks Only Justice for Downer, Says Sutherland, Outlining Case

W. A. Sutherland, Atlanta lawyer, said Monday the federal courts were asked to intervene in the John Downer case because he and other attorneys believed the negro had been deprived of constitutional guarantees by the state trial at Elberton, which sentenced the negro to the electric chair on conviction of assaulting a white woman.

Constitution

Sutherland and other attorneys applied to Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver for a writ of habeas corpus at Macon Saturday. Judge Deaver denied the writ but permitted an appeal to the United States court of appeals at New Orleans, which had the effect of postponing the electrocution of the negro, which had been set for today at the state penitentiary at Milledgeville.

6-15-31

"We have grave doubts as to the guilt of the accused," Mr. Sutherland said in a written statement. "We shall try to see to it that he is not electrocuted until and unless his guilt is established in a fair trial.

"The considerations, however, which have moved us to take up this matter do not concern principally the defendant personally nor the negro race, but greatly transcend in importance the life of any individual or race and go to the very foundation of the guarantee of life and liberty contained in our federal and state constitutions.

Atlanta Ga

"We are fighting to see that when mob lynchings are stopped, as the good citizens of this country are fast coming to insist they must be, we shall not compromise with those same mobs by substituting a mere form of trial. We maintain that when an execution is the result of mob passion and violence or the threat thereof, little is gained by the fact that this passion and violence is permitted to operate through the machinery of the law. It may well be that the new evil is the worse of the two. It is certainly more insidious; being cloaked in the forms of justice.

"It is clearly established by the supreme court of the United States in 'the Elaine riot case,' which went up from Arkansas, that the requirement of the federal constitution that a person shall not be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law is not satisfied by a trial where all the usual forms of justice may be observed, but wherein fact all substances of justice is lacking.

"The substance of justice we maintain is most assuredly lacking in a trial conducted in a land by a community which only six days prior thereto was seeking to lynch six separate suspects and in which the accused could not be given 'even the form of a trial without the presence of a strong contingent of armed troops.

"The punishment of persons guilty of crime is ordinarily subject to the most unreasonable delays and the public has naturally become displeased with the interposition of technicalities to defeat the ends of justice.

"Many of these technicalities and most of the delays can, and should be eliminated. When they are eliminated, however, the substance of justice must be left unaltered, and the trials involving life and liberty must be deliberate proceedings in which the guilt or innocence of the accused is fairly considered."

Sutherland said he was serving without compensation and would not accept any fee. He said that three other white lawyers, associated with him, Granger Hansell and Jerome Jones, of Atlanta, and Harris Strozier, of Macon, were also serving without compensation.

The other attorney is A. T. Walden, Atlanta negro.

W

Elberton Negro Confident of Freedom

MACON, Ga., June 16—(AP)—John Downer, negro, sentenced to die in the electric chair for an alleged assault on a white woman, told reporters today he was very thankful for efforts of attorneys in having his electrocution postponed.

A stay of sentence, which was to have been carried out today, was caused when Judge Bascom S. Deaver Saturday denied a habeas corpus petition, but granted an appeal to the circuit court in New Orleans.

[illegible] their petition, lawyers pleading for the negro, said Downer was convicted "without due process of law," and his trial was "a mere sham and pretense."

When Downer was arrested, a mob stormed the jail at Elberton, Ga., in an effort to seize him, but tear gas, and a round of firing by national guardsmen held the crowd from the prisoner. Hist rial was held at Elberton while guardsmen protected the defendant with machine guns.

One negro lawyer and four white lawyers of Atlanta took the action in behalf of the defendant, who said today he felt certain he would be freed.

Doomed Negro Thankful of Stay, Confident of Winning Freedom

Constitution

MACON, Ga., June 15.—(AP)—John Downer, negro, sentenced to die in the electric chair for an alleged assault on a white woman, told reporters today he was very thankful for efforts of attorneys in having his electrocution postponed.

6-15-31

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Atlanta Ga

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CLERK WILL SEND CASE FOR REVIEW

Macon Telegraph

Court Prepares Records in Elberton Attack Trial

6/16/31

RESULT MATTER OF DOUBT

While United States District court officials yesterday were engaged in the preparation of the record in his case, John Downer, 23-year-old Elbert county Negro held in the Bibb county jail here pending an appeal to the Fifth circuit U. S. Court of Appeals, expressed thanks "to de white folks" who Saturday night were instrumental in saving his life.

George F. White, clerk of the disdistrict court here, will forward the record within the next day or two to New Orleans for review by the circuit court.

Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver, Saturday night denied a petition for writ of habeas corpus, but granted an appeal. The action automatically stayed Downer's execution, which had been scheduled for yesterday.

"De truth am de light," Downer said to a newspaper man yesterday when he expressed assurance that "de Lord won't let an innocent man die."

"I ain't done nothing, boss. I don't know nothing 'bout de courts, but de white folks told me de trial wus wrong. I knows I ain't done nothing."

Acts On Complaint

Judge Deaver acted Saturday night on a complaint that Downer had been tried, convicted, and sentenced "without due process of law," guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

Judge Deaver's decision was that, in his own mind, there was "due process of law," but that there is probable cause of complaint. Therefore he allowed the appeal.

6/16/31

Attorneys here yesterday were in doubt about what might be the result of the case. Should the court of appeals reverse Judge Deaver and grant the writ, Judge Deaver will hear the petition on a basis of facts. Then, attorneys will be called upon to prove the allegations they have set up in the petition.

The question of Downer's guilt or innocence will not come before him, it was said. Should he sustain the complaint and decide that the Negro was tried in Elberton without due process of law, attorneys said the order of Judge Deaver might result in a technical release of the defendant, but that state authorities might rearrest him immediately and place him on trial again.

Downer is alleged to have committed an assault on a white woman, near Elberton, on May 17. Eight days later he was placed on trial, while several armed national guard companies surrounded the courtroom to protect him from mob violence.

Downer's petition for a writ of habeas corpus alleges that he learned that he had legal representation only an hour before the trial began. There was no motion for change of venue, no motion for continuance, and the attorney appointed to represent him did not cross examine the alleged victim of the Negro's attack.

It was set out, too, that he was not allowed to confer with his client about filing a motion for new trial before the court term adjourned the day following the trial.

Sutherland Explains

ATLANTA, June 15 (AP).—W. A. Sutherland said today the federal courts were asked to intervene in the John Downer cause because he and other attorneys believed the Negro had been deprived of constitutional guarantees by the state trial at Elberton, which sentenced the Negro to the electric chair on conviction of assaulting a white woman. Sutherland said he was serving without compensation.

Sutherland and other attorneys applied to Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver for a writ of habeas corpus at Macon Saturday. Judge Deaver denied the writ but permitted an appeal to the U. S. Court of Appeals, at New Orleans, which had the effect of postponing the electrocution of the Negro which had been set for today at the state penitentiary at Milledgevilyle.

"We have grave doubts as to the guilt of the accused," Mr. Sutherland said in a written statement. "We shall try to see to it that he is not electrocuted until and unless his guilt is established in a fair trial.

"The considerations, however, which have moved us to take up this matter do not concern principally the defendant personally nor the Negro race, but greatly transcend in importance the life of any individual or race and go to the very foundations of the guarantee of life and liberty contained in our federal and state constitutions.

"We are fighting to see that when mob lynchings are stopped as the good citizens of the country are fast coming to insist they must be, we shall not compromise with those same mobs by substituting a mere form of trial. We maintain that when an execution is the result of mob passion and violence or the threat thereof, little is gained by the fact that this passion and violence is permitted to operate through the machinery of the law.

It may well be that the new evil is the worse of the two. It is certainly more insidious; being cloaked in the forms of justice.

"It is clearly established by the supreme court of the United States in 'the Elaine riot case,' which went up from Arkansas, that the requirement of the federal constitution that a person shall not be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law is not satisfied by a trial where all the usual forms of justice may be observed, but where in fact all substances of justice is lacking.

"The substance of justice we maintain is most assuredly lacking in a trial conducted in and by a community which only six days prior thereto was seeking to lynch six separate suspects and in which the accused could not be given even the form of a trial without the presence of a strong contingent of armed troops.

"The punishment of persons guilty of crime is ordinarly subject to the most unreasonable delays and the public has naturally become displeased with the interposition of technicalities to defeat the ends of justice.

"Many of these technicalities and most of the delays can, and should be eliminated. When they are eliminated, however, the substance of justice must be left unaltered, and the trials involving life and liberty must be deliberate proceedings in which the guilt or innocence of the accused is fairly considered.

Sutherland said he would not accept any fee for his work in the case. He said that three other white lawyers, associated with him, Granger Hansell and Jerome Jones, of Atlanta, and Harry Strozier of Macon, were also serving without compensation.

The other attorney is A. T. Walden, Negro of Atlanta.

JOHN DOWNER CAN PROVE ALIBI, HE SAYS IN BIBB COUNTY JAIL

Elbert Negro Maintains He Was Ill Abed When Alleged Criminal Assault Was Committed; Forced to Confess Against His Will, He Tells The Telegraph

Macon Telegraph 6/15/31

John Downer, Elbert county Negro under death sentence for criminal assault on a young white woman, yesterday told a reporter for The Telegraph that his conviction was through a case of mistaken identity, and that he can prove an alibi.

He was brought here and placed in the Bibb county jail Saturday night by B. H. Dunaway, superintendent of the state prison farm, after Judge Bascom S. Deaver in United States District court had granted an appeal from his denial of a writ of habeas corpus brought by attorneys for the Negro.

Downer said yesterday that the bloody garments introduced as evidence in the trial of his case in Elberton, May 26, were not his, but belonged to a Negro named Roy Huff. The footprints which Downer said were considered as part of the evidence against him were not made by him, he asserted yesterday.

He had lent his shoes to Isaac McCauley, a friend, he said, with whom he frequently exchanged clothes. Isaac said his own shoes hurt his feet, Downer said, and asked for the latter's "black slippers." Downer said that other Negroes in the vicinity had shoes of the same size and last, but that the tracks to which he was taken by the sheriff and five other men were made either by his own shoes or those like them. He denied, however, that he had made the footprints, and said he was compelled under threats of mutilation by the sheriff's companions to say the footprints were his.

He maintained, morever, he was ill abed when the assault is alleged to have been committed, at about 9 o'clock Sunday night, and that Otis Hudson, a friend, had been with him at home all that night until 10:30 o'clock. Two other Negroes, Frank Cade and Demp Baker, had been at his home during the day since Sunday school time, he said.

Ordered to Undress

The next day he plowed in his cotton field beside the road on which the mob was seeking the girl's assailant until dinner time, he said, not knowing "what had happened down the road." At dinner time he went home and was shaking the dirt out of his shoes when Sheriff Bibb Hammond and about five companions entered and commanded him to undress, he said.

When he was partly undressed they nodded at each other, he related, while he still did not know of what they were accusing him. They then called him into the yard where Peter McCauley, father of the man to whom he had lent the shoes, tried to make him say he had a pistol, Downer asserted. Then the officers searched his house, but found no pistol, the Negro said.

They took him to a swamp where footprints, presumably of the assailant, could be seen. The white men threatened him with horrible mutilation, he said, if he refused to admit he had made the tracks. He admitted it, but says now that this was a false admission.

Downer said he had worked for white people for many years, and "was raised by Daddy Brown and Miss Leila Brown," a white couple with whose children he used to play. He recalled that he had worked in the homes of Pierce Hall and Robert McClannahan, white employers, and said he had "never been in trouble before."

He also considered that his inability to drive a car is a point of evidence in his favor. The guilty Negro is said to [illegible] the victim several times in an automobile, flashing a light. Downer owns no car, he said, and cannot drive one. He said "some man" testified at the trial that Downer had confessed to him, but that this confession was made with a misunderstanding of a question, and that he had never intended to confess because—"Cap, I didn't do it."

Telegraph 6/15/31

New York Negroes Meet

NEW YORK, June 14 (AP)—New York Negro organizations, at a meeting today protesting the conviction of John Downer, Elberton, Ga., Negro accused of attacking a white girl, decided to petition Gov. L. G. Hardman, of Georgia, to support the Dyer anti-lynching bill.

A plea for the bill was made by Ada R. Wright, mother of two of the eight Negroes convicted in Alabama April 8 of attacking white girls. She spoke under the auspices of the International League for Labor Defense.

Congressman Joseph Gavagan, of New York, pledged his support to the bill in congress. The meeting went on record as opposed to the action of the Georgia courts in convicting Downer and to the Alabama courts' conviction of the eight Negroes.

Congressman Fiorella La Guardia spoke at a second mass meeting in Harlem of the Brotherhood of Pullman Car Porters, who also are protesting the action of the Alabama courts in the assault case.

The Negroes, most of them youths, were arrested March 24 near Scottsboro, Ala.

JUDGE DEAVER ALLOWS STAY OF EXECUTION

Macon ~~Telegraph~~ News

Denies Writ of Habeas Corpus But Grants Appeal From His Decision

6/14/3

ORIGINAL TRIAL "SHAM"

~~June 14 31~~

"Fearing Consequences," Dunaway Brings Downer to Bibb County Jail

An Elbert county Negro who was tried May 26, eight days after his alleged assault on an Elberton, Ga., white woman, and sentenced to death while companies of armed National Guardsmen protected him from mob violence, last night was snatched from the shadow of the electric chair when Federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver granted an appeal from his denial of a writ of habeas corpus.

The order automatically stayed the execution, and on a telephoned order from Judge Berry T. Moseley, of the Elberton circuit, John Downer, the Negro, was delivered to the Bibb county jail early this morning to escape the fury of public passion against which Supt. H. B. Dunaway feared the state prison might afford inadequate protection.

The action of Judge Deaver will protect the Negro's life from the state's electric chair until the fifth Circuit United States Court of Appeals has reviewed the petition brought to the local court. That may be several weeks.

Had Judge Deaver granted the writ, the possibility of the Negro's electrocution would have been removed even more distant.

He denied the writ, but signed a certificate of probable cause, which passed the petition to the higher court.

The petition was founded on the legal allegation that the Negro was tried, convicted and sentenced "without due process of law," in violation of the 14th amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

"Swept by Passion"

The trial of the Negro was called a "mere sham and pretense" in the petition. It charged that "counsel, jury and judge were swept to the fatal end by an irresistible wave of public passion in that the immediate conviction of Downer was the only way of avoiding an immediate outbreak of the mob."

The petition charged that the grand jury which indicted the Negro, and the jury which tried him, contained members of the mob which shortly before had threatened to take his life through violence.

W. A. Sutherland, of Atlanta, one of the Negro's counsel, charged that Howard B. Payne, appointed to represent Downer at the trial, had been "fearful in the performance of his duty" to the client, had failed because of fear to give the Negro the legal protection due him.

The attorney charged that Mr. Payne had, because of fear, failed to make motion for continuance, motion for change of venue, or even to enter a motion for new trial after the Negro had been convicted an sentenced to death.

Convicted at a special term of court, Downer charged that the term was adjourned the day following the trial before he was given an opportunity of consulting his attorney about entering a motion for new trial.

Immediately after the sentence was imposed at 10 o'clock on the night of May 26, Downer was spirited away to Atlanta. He has not seen his attorney since that time, and the attorney failed, as it is charged he should have done, to file the motion for new trial.

News 6/14/31

Downer says in the petition that he did not know he had representation at the trial until an hour before his arraignment; that he did not have time properly to prepare his defense.

He protested his innocence and gave to his attorney names of persons by whom he could have established an alibi, it was said.

The crime was committed on May 17, and the day following five Negroes, none of whom was Downer, were arrested on suspicion. Downer said in his petition that a mob gathered to do violence to those Negroes held on suspicion in utter disregard of their guilt or innocence.

The death verdict of the trial jury was returned into court within five minutes, the petition cited.

Attorneys in the case argued the petition for a short time at noon yesterday, and for an hour last night. Judge Deaver hesitated about taking jurisdiction of the case.

Harry S. Strozier, Macon attorney, arose to discuss the petition.

"Your honor," he said, "I am not concerned with Downer. I don't know him, have never seen him, but I signed my name to this petition because under conditions like this my life is not safe, your life is not safe, nor is anybody's life safe if we allow this sort of thing to prevail in Georgia.

"When a Negro is haled into court seven days after the alleged commission of his crime, and has to be tried under the protection of National Guardsmen, I say no trial can be fair."

The entire time from the commission of the crime to the date fixed for the electrocution was only 29 days, it was cited.

Other attorneys here in the case were Granger Hansell and Jerome Jones, of the Atlanta firm of Anderson, Rountree, Crenshaw and Hansell; and A. T. Walden, Negro attorney, of Atlanta.

Downer apparently does not know of the fight that is being made in his behalf. He is married and has a family of children, but according to prison authorities, they have not been near, due to lack of funds. No one appeared to have taken any interest in Downer at the state prison except welfare workers who observed that he was still denying as late as last night that he was guilty.

"I am innocent; they've got the wrong man," Downer insisted again late last night.

Bristol, Tenn. Herald-Courier
Tuesday, June 16, 1931

CONDEMNED MAN DENIES ATTACKING WOMAN

MACON, Ga., June 15. (AP)—John Downer, negro condemned to electrocution for alleged assault on a white woman, was in jail here today under a stay of sentence while negro organizations throughout the country prepared to fight for his freedom in the United States circuit court of appeals in New Orleans.

Downer denies any connection with the purported attack, says he was sick in bed at the time, and that he has witnesses to prove an alibi if allowed to call them. At a hearing Saturday federal Judge Bascom S. Deaver denied a writ of habeas corpus brought on behalf of Downer by one negro and four white lawyers, but allowed appeal to the circut court in New Orleans. This had the effect of staying execution, which was set for today.

In their writ the lawyers said Downer was convicted "without due process of law," and that his trial was a "mere sham an pretense," adding that "counsel, jury and judge were swept to the fatal end by an irresistible wave of public passion in that the immediate conviction of Downer was the only way of avoiding an immediate outbreak of the mob"

Lynchings-1931
6
Legal Punishment for Rape

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6

3503

White Girls Laugh In Glee As Man Charged with Attack. Dies In Chair

Pgh Courier 1-24-31, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Jan. 22—(ANP)—Edward Jenkins, age 22, was electrocuted here at the state prison farm Friday morning for an attack upon two white girls.

Seated in the dark recesses of the death chamber, directly in front of the death chair, were the alleged victims of the doomed man, two white girls aged 9 and 11, with their father. As the prisoner walked calmly in the death chamber, the father very graciously pointed him out to the little girls, who watched with much interest and with a bravado frequently lacking in adult witnesses at executions.

As he was seated in the death chair and was strapped in it, the two children leaned forward, and when the current was turned on, and the straps creaked as the body strained in them, a giggle disturbed the death-like silence which prevailed the chamber. Those children will always have a story to tell to their associates at the present time and in later life.

Jenkins at the trial declared that he was innocent, but to no avail. Prison authorities, however, stated that just before the current was sent through his body he confessed to the crime.

NEGRO CONVICTED OF ATTACK CHARGE

Constitution
4-23-31
Atlanta, Ga.

ASHBURN, Ga., April 22.—Burwell Yancey, 16-year-old negro, today was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Milledgeville on June 12 following his conviction on a charge of criminally assaulting a 7-year-old schoolgirl near here last February. Hearing on a motion for a new trial was set for May 9.

A jury in the case was selected soon after the case was called yesterday morning. Little evidence was introduced, and the jury retired about noon. A verdict was reached about noon Wednesday.

The negro is said to have attacked the child as she was returning from school with her small brother. The little girl was not placed on the stand because of her age.

GUARDS ESCORT NEGRO TO TRIAL

Constitution
5-26-31

John Downer Removed to Elberton To Face Assault Charge.

Atlanta, Ga.

In custody of national guardsmen under the command of Colonel Gerald P. O'Keefe, John Downer, negro brought here last Monday for safekeeping after a clash between civilians and militia at Elberton, was being taken to that place by automobile early this morning for trial on a charge of criminal assault.

Downer and three other negroes brought here from Elberton were turned over to Colonel O'Keefe at midnight by order of Governor Hardman, signed by Adjutant General Homer C. Parker, it was said. The other negroes taken to Elberton are Isaac McCauley, C. Otis Cade and Frank Cade. Ernest Hill and Roy Huff, also brought to Fulton tower following the clash at Elberton were not affected by the order and remain in the tower.

The order giving the prisoners into the custody of the militia follows:

"Military Department, State of Georgia.

"To the sheriff of Fulton county:

"Sir, you are hereby authorized to deliver to Colonel Gerald P. O'Keefe the following named prisoners lodged with you from Elbert county: John Downder (Douner), Isaac McCauley, C. Otis Cade, Frank Cade.

"By order of the governor.

"Homer C. Parker, Brigadier General, Adjutant General."

Other negroes were being taken to Elberton for use as material witnesses, it was believed, as Downer was the only one indicted.

DOWNER TO FACE TRIAL IN ELBERTON TODAY

BY L. A. FARRELL,
Constitution Staff Correspondent.

ELBERTON, Ga., May 25.—John Downer, one of six negroes originally suspected of criminally assaulting a 20-year-old Elbert county girl a week ago, was indicted by the Elbert county grand jury here today and will be placed on trial at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Downer will be brought here from Atlanta where he was taken for safekeeping last Tuesday following a threat of mob violence.

Solicitor General A. S. Skelton, of the northern circuit, and the Rev. Henry Brookshire, Baptist minister, who quieted the mob a week ago, tonight were confident the negro will be given an impartial hearing.

Skelton stated that he knew of no request to Governor Hardman for troops, although he said he understood the matter had been discussed Saturday with the governor by Adjutant General Homer Parker. Court officials here also asserted guardsmen have not been requested.

"Everything here is quiet," the Rev. Brookshire said, "and I see nothing to indicate that there will be a demonstration of any kind."

"The people of Elbert county," the solicitor-general said, "want the negro to have a fair and orderly trial. There is no indication of trouble and I believe the case will be disposed of in a commendable way."

None of the other five negroes arrested at the same time in connection with the case will be indicted, Skelton revealed.

The crime, which for a time aroused Elbert county citizens, is said to have occurred on the highway near here May 17. Ralph Craft, of Oglethorpe county, was driving with a young Elbert county girl when the negro is alleged to have stopped the car and forced the young white man to descend at the point of a pistol. The negro then pulled the girl from the car, it was said.

GIRL'S ATTACKER IS FOUND GUILTY AT ELBERTON, GA.

Constitution
5-27-31
Atlanta, Ga.

Courtroom Is Crowded as Trial Proceeds in Orderly Fashion; Verdict of Guilty Is Reached on First Ballot.

NEGRO CONFESSED, O'KEEFFE STATES

Companion of Girl Also Identifies Negro; Shoes Considered Vital Part of State's Case.

BY L. A. FARRELL.
Staff Correspondent.

ELBERTON, Ga., May 26.—John Downer, negro, tonight was sentenced to die June 15 in the electric chair at Milledgeville following conviction on a charge of criminally assaulting a 20-year-old Elbert county girl.

An Elbert county superior court jury debated Downer's fate only six minutes after being given the case at 9:45 o'clock. The verdict was reached on the first ballot.

Before passing sentence, Judge Berry T. Moseley asked Downer if he had anything to say. The negro raised his right hand and said: "Judge, before God, I didn't do it." Defense attorneys are undecided whether or not the case will be appealed.

After sentence was passed, more than 500 spectators who jammed the courtroom throughout the day, quietly dispersed while 200 national guardsmen stood within or near-by the court house. A few minutes later, Downer and three other negroes originally suspected of the crime, were escorted under guard to the railroad station and placed on a train which left for Atlanta. Downer will be held temporarily in Fulton Tower for safe keeping. The three others will be released.

Judge Moseley thanked Colonel Gerald P. O'Keeffe, commanding the national guard detachment, for the manner in which the situation was handled. Colonel O'Keeffe replied that the task was made easy through the splendid co-operation of Elberton officials and citizens.

The trial of the negro opened at 9 o'clock this morning and arguments were begun late this afternoon. Downer, one of the last witnesses for the defense, testified he was innocent of the charge and made a blanket denial of all accusations. Earlier in the day, positive identification of the defendant was made from the witness stand by the victim of the attack and her companion.

Downer claimed that shoes found in his home which officers testified fitted tracks found at the scene of the crime had been loaned to another negro, Isaac McCauley. McCauley denied the charge, testifying that he had not seen Downer for several days before the crime was committed.

The prosecution, in summing up its case, contended that the tracks at the scene corresponded with those made by the shoes found in Downer's home. The shoes were introduced as a vital evidence of the defendant's guilt. One of them was soled with rubber, which left a peculiar imprint, while the other had a toe-plate. It was the finding of tracks made by these, or identical shoes that Downer was traced.

It was the contention of the defense that evidence had been introduced to show Downer was not in the vicinity of the scene of the crime at the time.

Judge Moseley, charging the jury, said one of three verdicts could be returned, guilty of rape, as charged by the state, with recommendation for mercy; guilty of rape, or not guilty.

The prosecution of Downer was headed by Solicitor-General A. S. Skelton, of the Elberton circuit, assisted by Paul Brow[illegible] Clarke Edwards, of Elberton.

Defense counsel for the prisoner was appointed by the court. Solicitor-General Howard B. Pay[illegible] the city court of Elberton,; Z. B. Rogers and Charles Emory Smith were named by Judge Moseley, to handle Downer's defense.

The trial proceeded smoothly and rapidly. The victim of the attack who previously had identified the defendant as her assailant, swore to this identification from the witness stand. She was followed by the young man from whose automobile she was forced, and who since has become her husband. The husband likewise was positive in his identification of the prisoner.

Other witnesses introduced by the state were Sheriff Burch Seymour who accompanied the prisoner from Atlanta this morning; and Sheriffs W. G. Hammond and George Walton of Lincoln and Wilkes counties, respectively. The three sheriffs arrested Downer after tracking the imprints of an odd pair of shoes, which, they testified, were found in Downer's cabin.

Colonel Gerald P. O'Keeffe, commanding the national guard detachment, and Captain Marion Williamson, an officer of one of the machine gun companies, also were placed on the stand by the prosecution.

Colonel O'Keeffe testified that when Downer was questioned by himself

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and Captain Williamson the negro had admitted committing the crime. This testimony was corroborated by O'Keeffe's subordinate officer. It was adduced, apparently, to contradict the contention of the defendant that he had loaned a pair of shoes to Ike McCauley, another negro, on the night of the crime.

Sheriffs Seymour, Hanmmond and Walton had previously testified that when they found the incriminating shoes in Downer's cabin he had told them that he had lent them to McCauley. McCauley, on the stand, denied that he had borrowed the shoes.

Dr. D. N. Thompson testified that he examined the woman shortly after the crime and found that she had been attacked.

The courtroom was cleared when the girl was called to the stand. She told of having gone for a ride with her companion. They had stopped on a lonely road while the young man smoked a cigaret, she testified, and it was during this pause that the negro suddenly appeared, pointed a pistol at her escort and ordered her to get out of the machine. She said the negro fired one shot, apparently for the purpose of convincing them the weapon was loaded.

Two white men were wounded during a mob attack on the Elbert county jail on the night following the crime. At the time the negro on trial was held on the charge of criminal asasult. He has since been in Fulton county jail at Atlanta for safekeeping. The defendant was brought here on a special train this morning, accompanied by troops under command of Colonel O'Keeffe.

Members of the jury were: Jule M. Cleveland, druggist; I. T. Goolsby, automobile dealer; William Maxwell, jeweler; W. L. Wall, carpenter; T. E. Almond, farmer; H. H. Stoner, granite cutter; B. F. Clark, farmer; F. S. Brown, farmer and merchant; John C. Moore, farmer; Clark Mattox, postal employe; P. L. Stratton, farmer, and E. L. Fleming, farmer.

All the jurors were from Elbert county.

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
Friday, May 29, 1931

TO BE ELECTROCUTED

[illegible]

Savannah Ga

This week at Elberton, Ga., amidst the glistening of bayonets, the tread of military surrounded by an atmosphere of hatred and resentment with a complete obliteration of the poise of justice, John Downer was tried for attacking a white woman and sentenced to be electrocuted. The three other accused will not be tried. The jury deliberated fifteen minutes. In an atmosphere of fairness, no doubt, the accused would have been given credit for the doubt that exists of his guilt, especially in considering the circumstances surrounding the case. The white woman was in an automobile in a lonely spot with a white man. It is charged that the accused forced the woman from the man and committed the crime. What kind of a white man can he be. The physician testified that the woman was attacked. This point will not be questioned. A court under less tension, with jurors unbiased and a lawyer of ability. what a different story would have been told: the result. Downer is guilty before the law and will have to pay the penalty. Mention is sometime made of legal lynching. Is this one of them? One of Georgia's leading lawyers made public statement in substantiation of it. He said that the "Negro didn't have a chance with the jury. I don't see much difference between that sort of lynching and mob lynching."

JUDGE DENIES LEGAL LYNCHING IN ELBERTON

Hits Orville Park's Statement Concerning Recent Conviction of Elberton Negro.

EVIDENCE WAS CLEAR

And Any Jury In the World Would Have Convicted Him of Crime, Stapleton Says.

Savannah, Ga., May 29. (AP)—Judge Raymond Stapleton, of the Elberton, Ga., city court, here today described as "unfounded as to facts" the statement attributed to Orville A. Park, Macon attorney, that the conviction of a negro in Elberton Tuesday for assault was "judicial lynching."

Judge Stapleton, who is here attending the State Bar Association, after reading reports of Mr. Park's speech before the Macon Kiwanis club, said there was no excitement at the time of the Elberton trial and that feeling was much greater in some of the nearby counties from whence the young woman and her escort came.

"I think the statement attributed to Orville A. Park by the press to the effect that the trial and conviction of the Elberton negro Tuesday was a judicial lynching was extremely unfortunate," Judge Stapleton said. "Mr. Park did not know any of the facts connected with the trial and there was nothing that could possibly justify such serious indictment against officials, attorneys and jurors who tried the case.

"Any one acquainted with Judge Moseley, who presided, would not question his conduct. I dare say attorneys appointed by the court to defend the negro were as diligent in performance of duty as in any case they have ever had, and they are able attorneys.

"As for the jury, any jury in the state would have found the same verdict with the evidence in the case. I also firmly believe if evidence had not shown the defendant guilty men on the jury would have acquitted him, even if it would have been at the risk of their lives, just as the sheriff a week before had carried four prisoners to Athens for safe keeping at the risk of his life.

"There was no excitement at the time of the trial and no treats or attempts at violence."

Execution of Elbert Negro Stayed by Court Decision

Constitution 6-14-31

Atlanta Ga

Judge Bascom Deaver Refuses Habeas Writ, But Grants Appeal.

MACON, Ga., June 13.—(AP)—Judge Bascom S. Deaver, of United States district court, tonight after an hour's hearing denied a writ of habeas corpus to stay the execution of John Downer, negro, who was sentenced to die in the electric chair on Monday.

However, Judge Deaver granted an appeal from his decision to the United States circuit court of appeals of the fifth circuit, in New Orleans, which has the effect of staying the execution until the higher court passes on the questions at issue.

Charging that the negro was tried, convicted and sentenced "without due process of law," in "violation of Article 1 of the fourteenth amendment of the United States constitution," a large group of lawyers and others appeared in the court tonight, urging Judge Deaver to issue the writ of habeas corpus, staying the execution of the negro.

Downer was convicted by a jury in Elbert country, it was shown in the petition, after five minutes of deliberation.

It was charged before Judge Deaver tonight that "some of the jurors who tried Downer and some of the grand jurors who indicted him were members of the mob that attempted to take him from the jail at Elberton and lynch him."

Other allegations included a statement that he had no opportunity to appeal; that he was assigned a lawyer only an hour before the trial began and that he gave the names of five witnesses from whom he "could establish a perfect alibi."

Trial of the negro was called a "mere sham and pretense." It charged that "counsel, jury and judge were swept to the fatal end by an irresistible wave of public passion, in that immediate conviction of Downer was the only way of avoiding an immediate outbreak of the mob."

It was set forth in the writ that only 19 days would elapse from the date of trial and conviction of the negro to the date of his execution, if it was carried out on Monday as planned.

Judge Deaver began the hearing at 8 o'clock.

Among the lawyers in attendance were W. A. Sutherland, of Atlanta; Granger Hansell, of Anderson, Rountree, Crenshaw & Hansell, Atlanta; Jerome Jones, of the same firm; Harry S. Strozier, of Macon, and A. T. Walden, negro lawyer, of Atlanta.

After the reading of the petition the lawyers devoted their time to the citation of law bearing on the subject.

Over at the state prison farm John Downer occupied the death cell, where all doomed prisoners are placed just before electrocution and where many a confession of guilt has been obtained when hope vanishes.

Downer apparently does not know of the fight that is being made in his behalf. He is married and has a family of children, but according to prison authorities they have not been near, due to lack of funds. No one appeared to have taken any interest in Downer at the state prison except welfare workers who observed that he was still denying as late as tonight that he was guilty.

"I am innocent; they've got the wrong man," Downer insisted again late tonight.

The crime, that of assault on a young woman of Elbert county, for which Downer was convicted, was committed on May 17. The trial took place on May 26 and the death sentence was meted out to Downer at 10 o'clock at night.

Armed national guardsmen escorted Downer back to the tower in Atlanta and from there he was taken to the state prison farm in Milledgeville.

"Even if he had been acquitted by the jury," the petition stated, "Downer would have met instant execution at the hands of the mob waiting outside the courtroom, but for the presence of the military?"

The order of Judge Deaver was sent to the Georgia state prison and soon after John Downer was on his way back to the Fulton county tower for safekeeping.

NEGRO IN BIBB JAIL, AGAIN DENIES GUILT

Constitution

6-15-31

Atlanta Ga

MACON, Ga., June 14.—(AP)—John Downer, Elbert county negro, under death sentence for an attack on a young white woman, today told a reporter for the Macon Telegraph that his conviction was a result of mistaken identity. He said he could prove an alibi.

Downer was brought here from the state prison late last night and placed in the Bibb county jail after Judge Bascom S. Deaver in United States district court had granted an appeal from his denial of a writ of habeas corpus brought by attorneys for the negro. The condemned man had been sentenced to die in the electric chair tomorrow, but the appeal of Judge Deaver's decision to the United States circuit court of appeals at New Orleans had the effect of staying the execution.

Repeating some of the statements he made at his trial in Elberton, Downer said footprints near the scene of the attack were not made by him. He had lent his shoes to a friend with whom he frequently exchanged clothes, he said.

Tracks which were pointed out to him by officers, Downer said, were made either by his own shoes, which he said another man had borrowed, or by shoes like them. He denied he made the footprints. When Downer's attention was called to his reported admission that he had made the footprints, he said he had said so under fear of mistreatment.

Downer said he was ill and in bed at the time the attack was reported to have taken place.

Scottsboro, Ala. Sentinel
Thursday, June 18, 1931

NEW YORK NEGROES UPHOLD LYNCH BILL

New York Negro organizations at a meeting today protesting the conviction of John Downer, Elberton (Ga.) Negro accused of attacking a white girl, decided to petition Gov. L. G. Hardman, of Georgia, to support the Dyer antilynching bill.

A plea for the bill was made by Ada R. Wright, mother of two of the eight Negroes convicted in Alabama, April 8, of attacking girls. She spoke under the auspices of the International League of Labor Defense.

Congressman Joseph Gavagan, of New York, pledged his support to the bill in congress. The meeting went on record as opposed to the action of the Georgia courts in convicting Downer and to the Alabama court's conviction of the eight Negroes.

The woman is the mother of Roy Wright, 14 and Andy Wright, 17. The latter has been sentenced to be hanged. A mistrial has been declared in the case of Roy because of his age.

Congressman Fiorella LaGuardia spoke at a second mass meeting in Harlem of the Brotherhood of Pullman Car Porters, who also are protesting the action of the Alabama courts in the assault case.

The eight Negroes, most of them youths, were arrested March 24, near Scottsboro, Ala. Their trial began April 22.

Lynchings-1931

Georgia

3504

Legal Punishment for Rape.

MACON, GA.
TELEGRAPH
JUN 16 1931

Mr. Hall's Letter

In the letter column to the right, Ellsworth Hall, prominent Macon attorney, comments interestingly on the appeal of John Downer, the Elberton Negro, for protection of the Federal courts. While Mr. Hall's letter stands for itself, it will be observed that he says it is probable that if the case reaches the United States Supreme court, the Negro will be given protection of the Federal courts. Not to put words in Mr. Hall's letter, the inference is that the court probably will hold the trial as unfair.

Mr. Hall mentions an opinion delivered by Mr. Justice Holmes in the Frank case: In giving that opinion, Mr. Holmes was in the minority, Justice Hughes, now chief justice, joining him in dissent to the majority opnion. In a decision given nine years later, in an Arkansas case, the court had so changed its mental complexion that Mr. Justice Holmes delivered the opinion for the majority in which the Arkansas trial was held to be unfair because it was held in mob atmosphere. It is interesting that even since that second decision was delivered, the mental complexion has altered still more and that the court now has a majority of men who may be considered to have the same reactions, in a case of this sort, as Justice Holmes has had. Only two men who sat on the court when the Frank trial was upheld are now on the Supreme court bench.

The Telegraph thinks Mr. Hall too eager to condemn the newspapers. It is true that they—and The Telegraph has been among them—have continually condemned what they considered to be undue delay in disposing of criminal cases, but they have never argued for undue haste, on the other hand. One is as bad as the other.

DEATH SENTENCE GIVEN PEACH MAN

9-19-31

Telegraph

Robert Chism Found Guilty of Assaulting Woman

Macon, Ga

OCT. 16 IS EXECUTION DATE

FORT VALLEY, Ga., Sept. 18.—Robert Lee Chism, charged with criminal assault upon a young woman last June 10, in Peach county, was found guilty in Peach County Superior court Thursday night and sentenced to die in the electric chair in Milledgeville, Oct. 16.

The trial was behind closed doors. A large crowd gathered to hear the evidence but Judge Malcolm D. Jones, presiding, excluded all spectators, upon the request of defense counsel and others.

The victim charged she was attacked by Chism while she was on her way home from a well, near by her home, where she had been washing. The defendant claimed that he was on a creek fishing at the time of the attack. Track dogs used in running down the prisoner are said to have trailed him to a creek bank where he was arrested, shortly after the crime was committed. A sweater was found at the creek and identified as the one the assailant was wearing at the time of the attack. In it was a wrench which the victim claimed was used by Chism in threatening the life of the young woman.

Negroes Sentenced

Heavy sentences were also imposed upon Jimmy Johnson and James Carter alias Marion Brown, Negroes, who were given terms of 15 and 20 years each on charges of burglary. They were charged with entering a filling station several miles north of Fort Valley and carrying away a quantity of tobacco, cigarettes, chewing gum and canned goods, last June. They used a gasoline tank handle to force entrance into the place and according to the evidence offered, the defendants were still in possession of the handle when arrested. Carter, alias Brown is said to have served time on previous occasions.

Frank Jackson, also a Negro, was sentenced by Judge Jones to serve from 15 to 20 years for stealing a shotgun from another Negro living in Fort Valley.

Judge Jones adjourned court this afternoon but before dismissing the jury he congratulated jurors and those present on splendid order maintained throughout the week, and expressed his appreciation to the jurors for their splendid service.

Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett prosecuted for the state.

NEGRO IS GIVEN 12 TO 20 YEARS

Telegraph

10-10-31

Macon, Ga.

Zeroy Whipple Convicted in Wilkinson of Assault

IRWINTON, Ga., Oct. 9.—Zeroy Whipple, 15-year-old Negro, was convicted of the charge of attempted criminal assault on a Wilkinson county white girl, by a jury in Superior court late today.

The Negro confessed when arrested by the sheriff, but today denied the charge.

The Negro had been employed around a farm house where the attack occurred, and entered the house, the evidence showed, at 11 o'clock at night. He sought the girl's room, but finding no one there proceeded farther. He encountered two girls, who put him to flight.

The jury recommended that he be sentenced to serve 12 to 20 years, which sentence was pronounced by Judge J. B. Park.

William Henry Sylvester, Negro, was given a life term for a crime involving an eight-year-old Negro boy.

In the case of Lawrence Allen, accused of burglary in connection with the robbery of Mrs. Henry Parker's storehouse on Nov. 3, a demurrer to the indictment was sustained. The solicitor wrote the date "Oct. 30" in the bill, instead of Oct. 3. However, Allen is held on bond.

Court recessed tonight until Monday, when another week's session will be held.

Lynchings - 1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Kentucky.

> *EDITOR'S NOTE—This story, from the pen of Stanley M. Tudor, a white man from the Mountains of Kentucky, who admitted that he was a "nigger-hater" until his life was saved by a Negro, reveals a gratitude which transcends the color-line. It's a story which bares the picture which so often looms in spectre-like dimness, behind America's Lynching Problem. It's a story the like of which we've never seen before. It renews our faith in MAN. It's a story with a moral and a Biblical lesson. It's a story which every man and woman in the United States, black and white, should READ!*
>
> *Stanley M. Tudor, the "Abraham Lincoln of 1931," we salute you!*

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 14, 1931.

To the Editor of The Pittsburgh Courier,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir: Courier 12-19-31 Pittsburgh, Pa.

I have read many copies of your very fine paper. Each time I read it, I wish more and more that every white person in the whole United States could also read it—and most especially those of my native South. Then they might see what the educated colored man is capable of doing.

I was born in the hills of Kentucky, with all that typical old Southern prejudice and hatred which whites have toward colored people. In my youth I thought it was something smart to declare myself a "nigger-hater," and thusly I conducted myself. I most certainly would not have been able to give anyone an intelligent reason for my attitude. Therefore, instead of being smart, I was actually afflicted with ignorance—the greatest curse of the human race. It is no wonder that the Master said: "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free." And it is because I have had the privilege of discovering at least a small portion of the truth that I am writing you at this time.

It is on behalf of a colored man who is now dead, that I am writing you at this time. He was injured in an automobile accident on the 9th of last June and died on June 10th. Buford Mundy was his name. We were boys together, living in the vicinity of Valley View, Kentucky. As youths we were bitter enemies and used to fight each other constantly But in September of the year 1908, when I was twenty years of age, Buford saved my life by getting me out from beneath a wagon and a cord of wood that had been turned bottom-side up on top of me by a runaway team of mules. I could not have lived until anyone else could have gotten to me, being badly crushed as I was.

He Snatched Me From the Jaws of Death

After snatching me from the jaws of death as he did, I soon began to think that the Negro was at least good for one thing, anyway. But I will not go farther on this point, because I have a more important matter than that of my conversion. Suffice to say, I left Kentucky in 1910, moving to Brazil, Indiana, where I lived for 15 years, coming from there to this city (Grand Rapids).

Meanwhile, in the year 1921, Buford was cultivating some ground on a farm owned by a white woman who had an attractive daughter about 20 years of age. This girl was married to a man about twice her age. Buford was younger and, in addition, a very nice looking fellow with a likable disposition. It was not long before he and the girl were seen together very often, especially in the fields where Buford was working. By autumn she showed signs of approaching motherhood, and the usual neighborhood gossip started going the rounds. Finally the girl went to the police authorities and swore out a warrant for Buford, charging him with rape. Meanwhile, the girl's husband and a few other hoodlums were preparing to form a mob to hand out justice in their own way. Upon discovering this, J. V. Taylor, the girl's cousin, found Buford and told him to beat it.

He Was a Negro and the Girl Was White

Realizing that he was a Negro and that the girl's skin was white, Buford thought it best to get away, and he did so. He was gone for two years before he was apprehended and arrested in Detroit. But no one ever knew what became of the baby which was apparently on the way. At any rate, after Buford was returned to Richmond, Ky., and was lying there in jail awaiting trial, the girl went before a Notary Public, on September 21, 1923, and swore that she had previously lied, also stating plainly that Buford had not mistreated her.

Despite this fact, he was convicted October 27, 1923, and sentenced to serve a term of 18 years in prison. Just how my old former schoolmate, William Baxter, the prosecuting attorney, could go on and prosecute the man in the face of the girl's own statement, and how Judge Rhodes Shackleford could instruct the jury to find a verdict of guilty, can only be answered in one way. That is that Buford Mundy had Negro blood in his veins. Mr. Baxter and the Judge, no doubt, will deny this. But when they do, I will ask them: What would have been their instruction if Buford Mundy had been a white man and Margaret Sowers a colored woman? I seriously doubt if she could have obtained a warrant against him, in the first place. And I have every reason to believe that the case would have been dismissed at once when she made the affidavit which I have just referred to.

Admitted He Had Been "Railroaded" to Prison

In the latter part of 1926, when I had [illegible] the truth of the whole matter, I wrote Governor William J. [illegible] Frankfort, Ky., and [illegible] him what I had learned and also what Buford had done for me, stating at the same time that I would like to put myself under bond and get the man out on parole, bring him to Michigan and look after him. I mailed [illegible] December 31, 1926. [illegible] short time later [illegible] ceived a letter from the Kentucky State Board [illegible], stating that they would [illegible] case prompt attention. This board had a copy of the girl's sworn statement in their files, also two others—one by Andy Poff, in which he swore that the girl's husband had told him that Buford Mundy has been "railroaded," and one by Oscar Spivy to the effect that Margaret Sowers had confided to him that she had charged Mundy with rape because she was expecting to become a mother and was afraid that the child might be colored. But Governor Fields was evidently like the man who succeeded him, the present Governor Flem D. Sampson—he did not have the moral courage to take a stand for real justice.

So I battled along with the authorities until April, 1929. I went then to the colored churches here in Grand Rapids and I obtained $33 to help pay my way to Kentucky. And let me pause here to say this: The poorest church in this city gave me the most money. It was The True Light Baptist Church, over on Williams street, under the leadership of Rev. Parish, which gave me $24 of the $33 which I received. This humble little group, which met in an old shack of a building, made such a contribution. And I thought how appropriate the name, "True Light," the light of love for their fellowman, was.

With the help of their money, and with their earnest prayers following me, I set out in my old Model T Ford. Slap-bang-pop-crack! I needed no horn—you could hear me coming, like the prodigal son, while I was yet a great way off.

Me and My "Model T" On the Way to Kentucky

Upon arriving in Kentucky, I obtained quite a list of names on my petition, calling for a full and complete pardon at once. These names, I should have stated, were obtained right in the vicinity of the place where he was convicted, and from people who knew both him and the girl. Then I started out to see the men who were on the jury. One of them had died, but I was able to see eight of the eleven remaining, and secured the signatures of six out of eight of this number on my petition. Here are some of the things I was told: Shirley Parks, one of those who refused me, said, "Hell, I didn't think he was guilty of rape at the time of the trial, but he was a damn hateful nigger, and I thought it a good chance to get rid of him." Tom Phelps said, "Whenever a damn son of-a—— of a nigger gets to associating with a white woman, even though she is willing, it is time to do something with him! Hell, no, I won't sign it!"

"A Bad Kind of Nigger"—Should Do Something

When I showed Stewart White, another juror, the girl's own statement, he said: "Why I saw that at the trial, but nobody semed to pay any attention to it.' He also stated that he did not think the man guilty of rape, but thought that he was "a bad kind of a nigger, and something ought to be done with him." I then reminded him: "Mr. White, you were under oath to try Buford Mundy on a specific charge of rape, and if you did not think he was guilty of that charge, you had no right to convict him of anything else." He replied, "I guess you are about right, so I'll sign that." And he did.

The next day, which was May 2, 1929, I called on Commissioner of Pardons Judge Hewett. Although I found him to be a man that I just had to like, he refused to take any action on it. His reason was that the man was eligible to parole within six months' time. I then went to see Mr. J. C. Bird, Parole Commissioner. He was out of the city, but his secretary, Miss Crawford, said that she would take the matter up with him as soon as he returned. Next I called on Mr. Herman Beard, the warden. He also stated that he considered Buford an innocent man, and that there was nothing against him so far as his conduct was concerned. I came back home and waited until October 30th, when I was informed that his parole had been postponed for one year. Then, on May 1, 1930, I called to see Governor Sampson in person. I was never treated with more courtesy. I told the Governor my story, presented my papers to him, and stated that Buford Mundy had been convicted and was also being held in prison—all because he was a colored man. The Governor promised me that he would look into the case.

At last, after having served seven years, Buford Mundy was paroled October 30, 1930. Incidentally, I failed to mention the fact that Buford Mundy had served his country in the Philippines and later in the World War, receiving an honorable discharge with a conduct rating as "Excellent."

Will Cost Him Friendship of Kentuckians

No doubt, this letter will cost me the friendship of many of my native Kentuckians, yet I would consider myself a disgrace to the State and to our Nation if I did not have the courage to take a stand for justice, and maintain that stand at all costs.

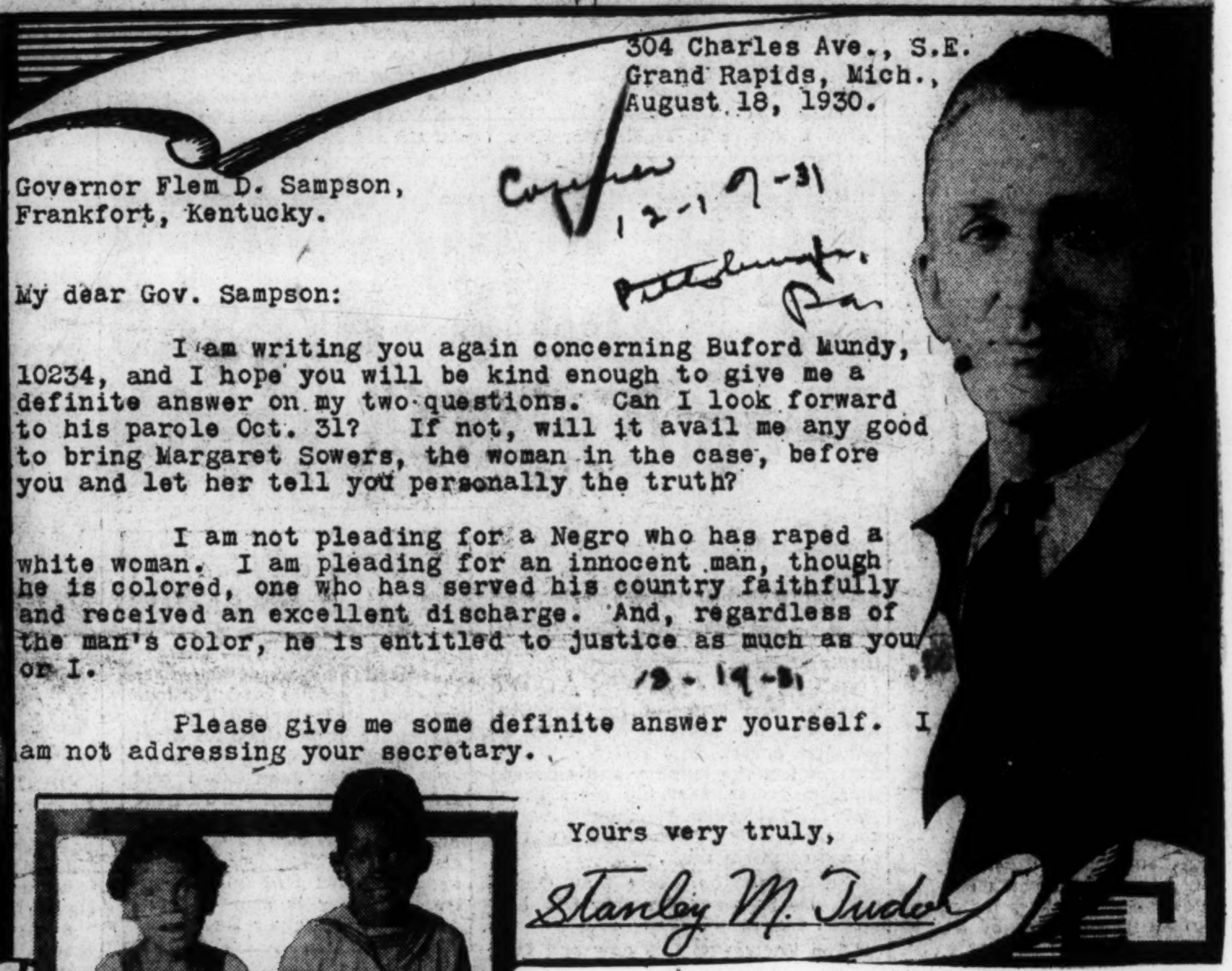
I am not pleading for inter-marriage, or for anything along that line, but just this: That the colored people be treated as we would want to be treated if our position were reversed. And, frankly, I will say to the citizens of my native State, that you have no claim on Christianity unless these things you will do.

And another thing—to those who feel themselves so superior to the Negro: You should let the Negro's women alone, and by your conduct set the right example before him. And do not taunt the little colored children with the names "Snowball," "pickaninny" or other such remarks, when you would kill a colored man for taunting your children.

The Editor of The Courier is kindly requested to mail a copy of The Courier containing this letter to Governor Flem D. Sampson, Mr. J. C. Bird, Commissioner of Paroles, and Judge Hewitt, Commissioner of Pardons, all of them at Frankfort, Ky.; also a copy to Judge Rhode Shackleford at Richmond, Ky., Commonwealth's Attorney William Baxter at Nicholasville, Ky.; also one to each of the jurors mentioned above: Mr. Shirley Parks, Mr. Tom Phelps and out of Richmond, Ky.

(Signed) STANLEY M. TUDOR,
431 Howard St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

PRINCIPALS IN ONE OF THE STRANGEST CASES EVER RECORDED



304 Charles Ave., S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mich.,
August 18, 1930.

Courier
12-19-31
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Governor Flem D. Sampson,
Frankfort, Kentucky.

My dear Gov. Sampson:

I am writing you again concerning Buford Mundy, 10234, and I hope you will be kind enough to give me a definite answer on my two questions. Can I look forward to his parole Oct. 31? If not, will it avail me any good to bring Margaret Sowers, the woman in the case, before you and let her tell you personally the truth?

I am not pleading for a Negro who has raped a white woman. I am pleading for an innocent man, though he is colored, one who has served his country faithfully and received an excellent discharge. And, regardless of the man's color, he is entitled to justice as much as you or I.

12-19-31

Please give me some definite answer yourself. I am not addressing your secretary.

Yours very truly,

Stanley M. Tudor

Courier
12-19-31

Above: Mr. Buford Mundy and his wife. Mundy was imprisoned on a "framed" charge of attacking a white girl. Right: The Mundy children. Extreme right: Stanley M. Tudor, who secured his freedom.

Kentucky

Lynchings - 1931.

Legal Punishment for Rape.

FULTON LOSES NEGROES.

Commercial Appeal

4-16-31

Louisville Will Try Negro Attackers for Murder First.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 15.—(AP)—Thomas A. Dover, Jefferson County jailor, today said two negroes being held in jail here for safe keeping and sought for capital offenses in Hardin and Fulton counties, will be turned over to Hardin County authorities.

The negroes, Charles Rogers, 22, and Walter Holmes, 30, are wanted in Hardin County on murder charges and in Fulton County on criminal attack charges.

Dover assured Hardin County authorities, after they said they would seek a restraining order to prevent Fulton County officials from taking the men, that he would hold the prisoners for them. They were brought here from Hardin County.

Rogers and Holmes have been identified as the pair who attacked two women in Fulton County. They are wanted by Hardin authorities for the slaying of Thomas Tillery, a farmer.

Fulton officials today sent Mardin authorities a communication seeking the right to try the prisoners.

HICKMAN, Ky., April 15.—Urgent requests that Fulton County be permitted to try Charles Rodgers, 22, and Walter Holmes, 30, negroes, on charges of criminal assault, were forwarded today by County Attorney E. J. Stahr to the county attorney of Hardin County (Louisville), and by Commonwealth Attorney Flavious Martin, to the commonwealth attorney of that district.

This action was taken following a conference between Circuit Judge J. E. Warren, County Judge W. J. McMurry, Sheriff Goalder, Johnson and Stahr. The letters to the Hardin County officials admit that county has prior claim to the men, but point out that the third negro, Walter Dewberry, did the actual killing in Hardin County, while Rodgers and Holmes were merely accessories, and that Fulton County urgently needs to handle the negroes here.

The letters point out that both have been positively identified by Mrs. Charles Hatler, who, with Mrs. Robert Howell, was attacked in the Howell home, and by William and Glynn Dillon, whose home was terrorized and robbed by the pair the same night.

Lynchings-1931

Maryland

3517

Legal Punishment for Rape

ATTORNEY IS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE RAPE PRISONER

Journal and Guide

12-12-31

Baltimore Warden Bars Interview With George Davis

Norfolk, Va.

BALTIMORE, Md.—With plans for the trial of Yuel Lee being rushed in Cambridge, Md., where it was scheduled for Tuesday, Bernard Ades, attorney for the accused man, struck another snag last week when he was denied the privilege of interviewing George Davis, another Eastern Shore prisoner, accused of attempted rape.

Mr. Ades was instructed by the International Labor Defense to defend Davis, who was rushed here from the Eastern Shore and lodged in the city jail for safekeeping after a mob had forced their way into a number of jails on the Eastern Shore in search of the accused man.

Habeas Corpus Denied

Mr. Ades had a conference with Judge Eli Frank in which he attempted to get a writ of habeas corpus that would permit him to see the prisoner, but the effort proved unsuccessful at the time, but John A. Sherman, assistant state's attorney visited Davis at the instigation of Judge Frank Thursday. When interviewed, Mr. Sherman declared that all of his findings had been turned over to Herbert O'Conor, state's attorney, and he was not in position to divulge the same. Mr. O'Conor could not be reached.

Harry C. Martin, warden of the jail, declared that he had denied Mr. Ades the right to see the prisoner. In a public statement he said:

"I will not allow Mr. Ades to see the prisoner Davis unless I am compelled to do so by a higher authority. He is not my prisoner but was sent here by the authorities of Ken County for safe keeping. There is no charge filed with me against him and I know of no charge.

"Anybody but the attorneys appointed by the court to defend Davis who wishes to see the prisoner must get positive authority either from the state's attorney of Kent County, the county court, or from a judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore."

Fights Transfer

Mr. Ades objected to the transfer of records in the Lee case from Snow Hill to Cambridge on the ground that he had not had sufficient time to examine them, and allow a review of the case by the Court of Appeals.

Mr. Ades wrote a letter Tuesday requesting that the records be submitted to the Court of Appeals.

Changes Story

In the case of Davis, who is accused by Mrs. Elizabeth Lusby, white, of attempted rape, the accuser has changed her story of the incident considerably since the first report.

Mrs. Lusby first said that the man came into her bedroom while her husband was out milking the cows, but was frightened off by the screams of her child.

In her later version of the alleged attack, Mrs. Lusby says that Davis entered her room, tore her night gown off and she escaped into another room and locked the door. She also says that her husband was away from home at the time. Mr. Ades hopes to get at the bottom of the charges when permitted to interview Davis.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment for Rape

Mississippi

3518

3518

NEGRO HANGED ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Advertiser

1-17-31

Condemned Man Denies Crime; Execution Is Witnessed By Crowd

Montgomery, Ala.

CLEVELAND, MISS., Jan. 16.—(AP)—The State today exacted the death penalty from Philip Hays, 25-year-old negro, convicted of criminal assault on a young white girl in a rural section of this county.

Protesting his innocence to the end, Hays was taken to the gallows on the courthouse lawn and hanged at 11.17 a.m. He was declared dead 14 minutes later. The execution was witnessed by a large number of Bolivar County citizens.

Hays was sentenced to death following his trial last year, the State Supreme Court affirming the verdict and penalty.

The negro was one of five persons scheduled to hang in Mississippi today, his application for executive clemency alone failing to win a reprieve or commutation. A pair of reprieves and a commutation halted three scheduled executions in Washington County near here, and another scheduled execution in Lauderdale County was delayed because of an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Hays's body was not claimed by his family today, and it was buried by the county.

EGRO TO HANG MAY 15.

Commercial Appeal

entenced by Judge White for Attack On Woman.

4-10-31

PASCAGOULA, Miss., April 9.—Judge Walter A. White today sentenced Tom Carraway, negro, to hang May 15, after he was convicted b ya jury of having committed an assault on a woman several miles east of Ocean Springs Feb. 23.

Memphis

Thus ende one of the most sensational trials in this county in many years, and the investigation of which was the cause for the calling of a specall term of the circuit court to meet on Monday.

Judge White, in his charge to the grand jury, was very brief, telling them they had been called together to consider any crime that might have been committed since the last term of the court, and asked them to report their findings as fast a sthey came to any conclusion, as there were only six days in which the court could be in session.

EXECUTION OF NEGRO STOPPED

Journal

New York, Dec. 4—Intervention yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has brought a stay of execution in the case of a Negro, Tom Carraway, who was to have died today for alleged assault upon a white woman.

12-9-31

The last minute successful plea of the N .A. A. C. P. was made by S. D. Redmond, attorney who is representing the Association in the Pruitt case originating at Meridian, Mississippi

Savannah, Ga.

The Carraway case was brought to the attention of the N. A. A. C. P. by A. W. Wells, President of the Jackson, Mississippi, branch. Mr. Wells informed the National Office that he believed the condemned man had not had a fair trial and that, in fact it would be impossible for a Negro accused of assault upon a white woman to have a fair trial before a jury of Mississippi white men.

Roy Wilkins, N. A. A. C. P. Assistant Secretary at once telegraphed Mr. Redmond asking him to obtain a stay of execution pending the filing of an appeal, if in Mr. Redmond's opinion the case warranted such action. Mr. Redmond, by long distance telephone yesterday afternoon, informed the National Office that the stay of execution had been granted until December 18, to permit filing of application for an appeal.

Facts in the case together with available legal documents are being forwarded by Mr. Redmond so that the National Legal Committee may see what steps can be taken for the defense of the condemned colored man.

Lynchings - 1931
Legal Punishment for Rape

Missouri.

3519

White Grocer Who Attacked Negro Girl Gets Postponement, While Gibson Gets 25 Years

Call 2-20-31 Kansas City, Mo.

IT DEPENDS ON THE COLOR OF DEFENDANT

Testimony in Gibson Trial Indicates Blacked-up Man Was Culprit

While Rudolph Gibson, 25, was being sentenced to 25 years in the penitentiary for criminal assault on a white girl, Aaron D. Baker, a white grocer at 5004 Prospect avenue, who is accused of criminal assault on a 17-year-old colored girl, was getting his preliminary hearing postponed for the fifth time.

Baker's first trial was set for January 15 and was postponed to January 29. On that date it was postponed to February 10. On February 10 it was postponed to February 17. Last Tuesday, Justice Roach again postponed it to March 3 at the request of counsel for Baker who telegraphed from out of town. The state was ready for the case and all witnesses were present. L. Amasa Knox, special prosecutor for the state, told Justice Roach the case had been postponed long enough and the state was ready. Roach replied that the opposition counsel ought to be granted courtesy and set the trial over to March 3.

Different With Gibson

In the case of Rudolph Gibson, where the man is colored and the woman is white, the procedure is altogether different. Gibson was arrested on January 14 and was sentenced on February 13—a bare month. He declared he was beaten by the police until he signed a confession to save his life. He also declares Chief of Detectives Thurman told him about the Maryville lynching and said he would get the same if he did not confess.

But the testimony in the trial is [illegible] indicates how a very thin story was stretched to convict a black man of a crime.

Blacked-Up White Man?

From the testimony of the white girl herself and from that of her landlady, Mrs. Bertha Cook, there is every indication that whoever committed the crime was blacked up. Both women testified last week that the girl, the bed clothes and the girl's pajamas were "very dirty."

Mrs. Cook testified that the dirt was "all over" and "up to the girl's ears."

Other testimony tended to show that although the girl was living in a hotel which had as many as fifty people it it, she did not scream or make any outcry. She says she was unconscious but awoke in time to see the man leaving the room and could identify him.

Another bit of testimony by Mrs. Cook showed the window was protected by heavy criss-cross wire in an iron frame which had to be nailed on the window.

Escaped Through Hall

Further puzzling testimony is that of both women that the man came in the window, but WENT OUT INTO THE HALL OF A STRANGE WHITE HOTEL to make his escape.

The girl lived at the time at the Winona hotel, 912 Tracy avenue.

The girl also testified that she went out to a movie that night, but about eleven-thirty she was home and heard a jarring noise at the window and noticed at that time the screen had been taken off. She declared, however, that she had not been frightened, had sat around her room for an hour, had retired at 12:30 without any fear because the screen was off.

Transcripts of various parts of the testimony relating to this case follow:

Direct Examination by Mr. O'Hern

Q. Now, Helen, on the morning of January 4th, 1931, do you recall being in your room that morning, January 4th, 1931?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was there anything that aroused you from your sleep?

A. Yes, sir, some one grabbed me and choked me.

Q. What room did you occupy out there?

A. Number seven.

Q. What floor was that on?

A. The first one.

Q. And was it toward the front of the apartment or the back of the apartment?

A. Back of the apartment.

Q. On the first floor?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was there any window to the apartment, to your room?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How many?

A. One.

Q. And where did it lead to, that is—

Q. (Interrupting) Into an alley in the back.

Q. Did you ever notice about how far that was from the ground?

A. Well, it is just a little ways. You can step out.

Q. You could. Was there anything, any protection of any kind on the window?

A. Yes sir, big iron bars.

Q. Did you notice where those bars were when you retired the night before?

A. I noticed they were gone, but I never thought—

Q. Never thought. They had been up there to that time?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Now then, you say you were aroused on the morning of January 4th by somebody being in your room?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What is the first thing that you recall?

Grabbed Her Throat

A. Just the minute I opened my eyes he grabbed my throat.

Q. With one hand or both hands?

A. Both hands.

Q. And were you then lying on the bed?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Helen, was there any light of any kind in the room that morning?

A. Yes sir, there is two lights in the hall and there was a big transom in my room and the light shone in my room from the transom.

Q. And that is the way it was on the morning that you are just about to describe?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Now, you say a man grabbed you by the throat?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he say anything to you?

A. Yes, he told me if I screamed he would kill me.

Q. What did you do?

A. I couldn't scream, he had my throat, and every time I would try to talk he would press my throat harder, and there was nothing that I could do.

Q. Did he have one hand or both hands upon you?

A. Both hands at that time, but right after that he had taken his left hand off of my throat.

Q. How was he dressed Helen?

A. He had on overalls and a sweater and a cap.

Q. Was he a white man or a colored man?

A. He was a colored man.

Q. Do you see him in the court room?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Point him out.

A. Right there (indicating).

Recovered "Just in Time"

Q. Helen do you recall coming to?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this man there then?

A. No, he started out, and just when I opened my eyes he went out the door, and then he went out the back door.

Q. He went out the back door?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Now, after he left the room, did you do anything?

A. Well, not right then. I tried to get up as quick as I could. I got up and I went to the door and I went down the hall and Mrs. Cook, my landlady, was coming out of her bedroom and she came to me.

Q. Do you know about what hour of the morning that was on January 4th?

A. It was about three-thirty.

Q. About three-thirty. You went from there to where?

A. Went down to Mrs. Cook's room and she called the police, and the policemen came and investigated the room and couldn't find anything only the bars were gone, and then called the General hospital.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. CALLOWAY

Q. Were these bars on your room window?

A. They were on there that evening until I came from the show.

Q. When you came home from the show did you notice them in particular?

A. Why, when the window jarred real loud I went to the window.

Q. That was about eleven o'clock. was it not?

A. About eleven-thirty.

Not Afraid With Bars Off

Q. Was your suspicion aroused when you found the bars were removed from the window?

A. No, nothing happened and I wasn't afraid.

Q. You never paid any particular attention to the bars before, did you?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Now, what time did you retire?

A. About twelve-thirty.

Q. Twelve-thirty?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you occupy the room alone?

A. No sir.

Q. Who occupied the room with you?

A. Miss Velma Jones.

Q. Where was she on the morning of January 4th?

A. With her sister at Liberty, Missouri.

Q. Now, you were fast asleep at the time a man came into your room?

A. Yes.

Q. He woke you?

A. When he started to grab my throat.

Q. You didn't scream at that time?

A No.

Q. Were you frightened?

A. Sure.

Q. And remained frightened until he left?

A. Yes.

Q. You were frightened all the time?

Didn't Know What Was Happening

A. I didn't even know what was happening part of the time.

Q. I see. Of course, you say, when the man had finished he jumped up and ran and you were dazed at that time?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And you can tell us—you know everything that happened but you were dazed?

A. I can tell you what happened before I did get that way, yes sir.

Q. After the man had accomplished his purpose and left the room you were still dazed?

A. (No answer)

Q. and you didn't regain consciousness until after he was gone, is that right?

A. I knew when he left.

Q. You knew when he left?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You were conscious then?

A. Yes.

Q. When he left?

A. I knew when he went out the door.

Q. But you were unconscious before he left?

A. No, I wasn't.

Q. You weren't. Were you unconscious at any time?

A. Yes sir.

Q. At what time, now, if you can remember?

A. Just when he choked me real hard, that is when.

Q. You became unconscious then?

A. Yes.

Q. You didn't regain consciousness until he had finished and left the room?

A. I heard him go out the door.

Q. You kind of gained consciousness then when you heard him go out the door?

A. Yes.

Dirt on Throat

Q. Now, I believe you testified in your direct examination that the marks were on your throat, is that right, some marks?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Was there any dirt on your throat?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Any coal soot, or dirt?

A. I don't know whether it was coal soot or what it was. It was just plain dirt.

Q. Isn't it a fact that—didn't you tell the police department that there was coal soot on the sheets of your bed?

A. There was dirt on the bed; I didn't say whether it was coal soot or what.

Q. Did you examine it very closely as to whether it was dirt?

A. I didn't have any desire to examine it.

Q. You didn't tell them it was coal soot?

A. No.

BERTHA E. COOK

Direct Examination By Mr. O'Hern

Q. Now, she roomed on the ground floor?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What room do you call that?

A. Seven.

Q. Seven?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What part of the floor is that on, front or back?

A. The rear.

Q. Rear. Well, is it the extreme rear?

A. Well, it is next to the last room.

Q. Next to the last room?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Is there any window to it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And how many?

A. One.

Q. Where does that lead to?

A. Well, it leads to a vacant lot.

Q. And were those windows protected by any sort of a shield or screen of any kind?

A. By a bar.

Mr. Knox: Just a moment, if your Honor please; ask the witness to describe it.

Mr. O'Hern: I am going to.

The Court: Yes, describe it.

Iron-framed Screen

Q. Describe what sort of screen or wire or iron, whatever it was, describe it to the jury.

A. Well, it was not those straight bars; it was a heavy netting. I should say it was—Well, it was about that large (Indicating) in a diamond shape.

Q. All right.

A. An heavy wire.

Q. Was the screen removable so that you could take it off?

A. Nc; this wire was encased in a frame, an iron frame, with nails so far apart, to be driven into the window.

Q. Could the whole screen be taken out?

A. By removing all the nails.

Q. Describe her appearance to the jury as you saw her in the hallway that morning. (January 4.)

A. Well, of course, she was highly excited, very hysterical, and her throat was all black clear up to here and here (indicating).

Q. All right. Anything else, Mrs. Cook? What do you mean by black?

A. Well, it was awfully dirty looking, and it was so black I couldn't tell whether it was bruises or dirt.

Q. You pointed a while ago to both sides of her throat?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Is that the way it appeared upon her throat?

A. Yes sir.

Black "Absolutely All Over"

Q. How far up on her throat?

A. Clear up to here (indicating).

Q. Up to where, with reference to the ears, how far?

A. Well, awful close to the top of the ear, in here, because it was all over, absolutely all over.

Q. Her throat?

A. Yes sir.

Cross Examination by Mr. Calloway:

Q. Did you have those screens put in the window, Mrs. Cook, or did you find them there when you moved to the building?

A. I had the building painted in the fall; they were removed and put in again sometime in the early part of November.

Q. Do you know how secure they were placed there?

A. Yes, sir; I do.

Q. Would it take quite a bit of effort for one to pry one off?

A. Not so much if they knew how to take it off, I don't think; they were—they were put in with nails.

Q. Then one couldn't take his hand and pull them off? You would have to take some other instrument, would he not, to pry them off?

A. I imagine.

Q. Now, how high is the window from the ground, the window that is in Mrs. Maupin's room?

A. I never measured it, but it is not as high as that table (indicating).

Q. About three feet, is it?

A. I should judge something like that.

Q. Only one window?

A. One window.

Q. And then there is a door leading out into the hall?

A. Yes.

And then there is a door at the west end of the hall that leads out to the back?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, are there steps there that go down to the ground?

A. Just step out of the door onto the pavement.

Q. The assassin that night went out through the hall—of course, you don't know whether he did or not. Was the back door opened when you got up and looked?

A. No, it wasn't open.

Q. Do you know who fastened it?

A. I suppose whoever went out last.

Q. Was it locked?

A. You can't open it from the outside but you can from the inside.

Q. You didn't hear anybody going out?

A. Yes, I heard footsteps.

Q. You don't know who it was?

A. No.

Q. Whether it was an intruder or some one in the hotel?

A. No.

Very Dirty

Q. Now, did you examine her room after this assault—alleged assault, did you examine her room?

A. I did personally.

Q. Tell the jury the condition of the bed clothes.

A. It was awfully dirty and very mussed up.

Q. Evidence of coal soot?

A. Well, I couldn't say it was coal soot; I don't know; it was just dirty.

Q. Dirty. Black dirt?

A. It was dirty.

Q. Did you have an opportunity to observe Miss Maupin's clothing?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Were they dirty also?

A Very, up around her (indicating) and here (indicating) on the sides.

Q. Very dirty?

A. Very dirty.

NOT A MATTER OF COURTESY

Case

The unequal application of the law could not be better illustrated than the repeated postponements being granted to a white man accused of raping a Negro girl. A Negro similarly accused is rushed to trial within a month and convicted on evidence which would be laughed out of court had the complaining witness not been a white woman. Justice of Peace Roach in granting this latest postponement argued with the attorneys for the prosecution that it ought to be allowed and did allow it because the attorney for the defense asked it. 2-20-31

We ask Justice Roach, when does courtesy run out and justice have its turn? This man, an adult with full knowledge of what rape is, is charged with choosing a child for his victim, the worst violation of the law and human rights. Yet Justice Roach urges "courtesy!" He takes an unreasonable view of his relations with lawyers who are too busy to look after their clients. Or is it that the lawyer is looking after the business of his client by thus dragging out the case until the state's witnesses are worn out and the defendant can go free for lack of prosecution?

Lynchings-1931
&
Legal Punishment for Rape
&

North Carolina

3522

TWO ALLEGED N.C. RAPISTS GET COMMUTATION

Afro American
2-7-31
Baltimore, Md

RALEIGH. — The death sentence given Huzzy Jackson and Jeff Morrow for alleged assaults upon white women, was commuted to life imprisonment Wednesday, by Governor Max Gardner upon request of the trial judges who doubted the guilt of the men.

Lancey Sterling convicted of first degree murder, whose electrocution was set for Friday, was granted a 30-day respite in the execution of the sentence until Monday, March 2. George Davis who was convicted along with Sterling, had his death sentence changed to life imprisonment at the same time.
to death in the November term of
Bothreputed rapists were sentenced the Superior court. The trial judge, A. M. Stack, interceded for Jackson, basing his recommendations upon the doubt surrounding the case. The prosecutrix did not oppose the change. Extenuating circumstances in the case of Morrow also caused the trial judge and solictior to request a commutation.

Florence S. C., News
Tuesday, June 9, 1931

NEGRO TRIAL BEGINS TODAY

MONROE, N. C., June 8—(AP) —Trial of Wilson Autry, 20-year-old negro indicted today for criminal attack on a white woman near Marshville several weeks ago, is scheduled to start tomorrow morning in Union county superior court.

Autry, who led hundreds of armed pursuers a chase through lower Union county and into South Carolina was finally captured by negroes in a barn near Lancaster, S. C.

Lynchings-1931

Ohio.

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Girl Slayer is Sentenced

CHARGES TO PLEA OF GUILTY OF 2ND DEGREE MURDER

Cleveland Guide

Sam Levido, 24, slayer of Ethel Taylor, thirteen year old daughter of Mrs. Pearl Taylor, 3116 Orange Avenue, after the jury of seven men and five women had been selected and in the midst of trial, pleaded guilty to second degree murder last Wednesday, November 25th. He was sentenced to a life imprisonment in the penitentiary by Presiding Judge George P. Baer. 12-5-31

The State was represented by Assistant Prosecutor James Hart, Thomas Burke and Norman S. Minor, the defendant by attorneys J. P. Mooney and Easton.

Levido had been indicted for First Degree murder.

On September 29, 1931, Ethel Taylor, in company with five year old Geraldine Vantree, went to the room of Sam Levido at 3603 Croton Avenue over a print-shop where he worked. The younger girl was left on the outside. A few minutes later a shot was heard, Levido came out an tried to carry Ethel downstairs. Ethel was large for her age, weighing about 130 pounds, and Levido fell with the girl. Cleveland, Ohio.

Levido called police who found she was dead when they arrived. Levido claimed at first she committed suicide, then that the shooting was accidental, but the prosecution charged he had killed her in an attempt to rape her.

Many organizations and prominent citizens urged prosecution.

Courtroom Cheers as Man Is Freed by Jury of White Men

Negro World

BRYAN, Ohio.—While a crowded courtroom cheered the verdict to the echo, Wilbur Lawson, aged 28, charged with rape in an affidavit filed by Mrs. John Mocherman, white, was found "not guilty" by a jury of white men here last week. 12-5-31

The trial, one of the most sensational ever heard here, produced spicy and startling testimony.

New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Mocherman, pretty and well-known in the vicinity of Columbia, not far from the Indiana State line, said that Lawson came to the farm where she lived with her husband o September 18 and abused her in number of ways as he flourished revolver.

According to her testimony, he

husband arrived during the ordeal bu was driven away with the revolver.

On the witness stand, Lawson admitted that he had been intimate with the complainant on various occasions and stated that she had made the advances in their friendly relations. He charged that the woman had actually "coaxed" him, and his testimony was substantiated by two other witnesses, both colored.

Lynchings-1931
6

South Carolina

3525

Legal Punishment for Rape

MAN INDICTED FOR CRIMINAL ASSAULT

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

12-26-31

CONWAY, S. C., Dec. 24—(ANP)—James L. Sturdevant was indicted here Monday by the Horry county grand jury for an alleged attack on a white woman. At the time of the reported attack Sturdevant was serving a sentence on the Horry county chain-gang.

Tennessee

3528

Lynchings-1931
6

Legal Punishment for Rape.

ASSAILANT OF CHILD GETS 25 YEARS IN PEN

Commercial Appeal

Dave Smith Changes Plea at Tiptonville.

6-4-31

TIPTONVILLE, Tenn., June 3.—(AP)—Dave Smith, 44, farm hand, was sentenced in Lake County circuit court today to 25 years' imprisonment on a plea of guilty to an attack on a 10-year-old child, daughter of a farmer.

Memphis [illegible]

The punishment was fixed by a jury after a trial held under guard of state troops. The military detail of 35 men were ordered here from Jackson as a precaution against a possible demonstration.

Spectators crowded the courtroom during the hearing, but no demonstration was attempted.

Smith pleaded not guilty when he was arraigned yesterday, but changed the plea to guilty today. The evidence was confined to the presentation of facts to govern the jury in fixing the punishment.

The accused man said he had been drinking and remembered nothing of what happened from the time the child was kidnaped and taken to a woods until the following morning. Testimony also was submitted in support of the defense contention that he was of sub-standard mentality.

The troops returned to Jackson immediately the trial was concluded.

Lynchings - 1931
&
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Texas.

3530

NEGRO IS GIVEN DEATH

Jury Deliberates Only Five Minutes In Assault Case.

DAINGERFIELD, Texas, Nov. 10.—(AP)—Deliberating only five minutes a district court jury today convicted Barney Lee Ross, negro, 33, on a charge of attacking a white woman and sentenced him to death.

Lynchings-1931
0

Virginia.
6

3532

Legal Punishment for Rape.

SEEK TO LYNCH WHITE YOUTH WHO RAPED GIRL, 6

Washington D.C. Tribune

Youth Spirited Out of City To Avoid Wrath of Negro Citizens

11-13-31

PETERSBURG, Va.—Following an acquital by a jury of twelve white men on a charge of criminally assaulting a small colored girl, 6 years of age, Merritt A. Bragg,, 17-year-old white youth, was spirited out of town this week and eluded the wrath of angry citizens.

On the day of September 17th the six-year-old child came home in a wrecked physical condition. Dr. James B. Darden well known colored physician, of Petersburg, was called in to treat the child, but refused until the tiny victim of rape had been seen by a policewoman and the city physician, both white.

Attorney Theodore L. Tazler, a graduate of Howard University Law School, represented the family.

Guilt is Evident

In court both lower and higher all of these parties testified that they found the young child on this occasions with deranged sex organs indicating rape. The child in court testified that Bragg had had sexual intercourse with her on two successive days. On the second day, being unsuccessful the first day, he used grease and other devices which resulted in the derangement of the child. Bragg practically admitted himself that he was guilty. His lawyer in court offered no defense for him from the angle of the actual case involved.

All persons were barred from the court room except court officials and witnesses, a thing which has not happened before in this court in the memory of the oldest citizens.

Negro Hater on Jury

Jury was headed by a man who is known to be hostile to Negroes. Although it appears that the court endeavored to give a fair trial thereby ridding themselves of race prejudice, nevertheless after the verdict of not guilty was announced the jury was thanked in the customary way and Bragg was told that he should be thankful to the jury for the rest of his life.

Representatives of the Trinity M.E. Church, South, (white) helped form a defense for Bragg by testifying to his good character. This church is composed of the aristocracy of Petersburg.

Youth Escapes Citizens

Nothing has been done openly by any element of the white people to condemn the exoneration of Bragg. All told the verdict has been accepted passively. Certain individuals privately however have been heard to condemn the outcome.

The Progress-Index which is usually reasonably fair on all race questions has said nothing whatever editorially about this case at any time .A news story which was given a week or more after the crime was committed greatly whitewashed the whole affair. At least this account was very indefinite.

It is rumored that Bragg himself has left town so as to escape physical violence at the hands of the colored people, as feeling is extremely bitter against him.

Lynchings-1931
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Virginia.

3533

Johnson City, Tenn., Chronicle
Saturday, January 31, 1931

Negro Attacker to Die

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 30. (UP)—William Harper, 22-year-old negro, today stood convicted of criminally assaulting Mrs. Dorothy Skaggs, young Portsmouth white woman, in Norfolk on the night of January 6. A jury in corporation court fixed his punishment at death in the electric chair. Sentence will be passed Saturday morning.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
Friday, January 30, 1931

HARPER CONVICTED OF ASSAULT; GIVEN SENTENCE OF DEATH

Jury In Corporation Court No. 1 Reaches Verdict In 22 Minutes After Hearing Case Involving Criminal Attack By Young Negro

DEFENDANT ON STAND; DENIES ALL CHARGES

William Harper, 22-year-old Negro, yesterday was convicted by a jury in Corporation Court No. 1 on a charge of criminally assaulting a young Portsmouth woman in Upton's Lane, Norfolk, on January 6, and his punishment was fixed at death in the electric chair.

A motion for a new trail, made by Frank L. Robart, associated with W. H. Starkey in the Negro's defense, was continued by Judge Allan R. Hanckel until Saturday morning at 9:15 o'clock. Mr. Starkey, who was appointed by the court to defend Harper, and Mr. Robart and Commonwealth's Attorney Harry E. McCoy, who prosecuted the case, will argue the motion before Judge Hanckel.

The verdict was returned at 2:58 o'clock yesterday afternoon after the jury had deliberated only 22 minutes. Arguments by counsel in the case were concluded before the lunch hour yesterday and the jury was taken out to lunch before retiring to consider a verdict. It is understood that 11 members of the jury were in favor of writing a verdict of guilty and fixing the penalty at death immediately. One juror, it was learned, was in favor of the sentence finally fixed by the jury, but he asked the other 11 men to deliberate on the question for a short time before returning to the courtroom. Too hasty a verdict might have reflected on the dignity of the jury, he is quoted as saying.

Members of Jury

The jury was composed of William H. Cherry, G. I. Snyder, W. B. Tench, Phillip W. Thomas, Pressley B. White, W. H. Thompson, H. H. Barrett, Charles W. Bradley, James G. Cake, J. A. Sams, C. M. Simpson and John F. Winn, Jr.

All the testimony in the case was taken Wednesday, except Harper's own evidence. During this testimony the young victim of the assault positively identified Harper as her assailant and police officers and newspaper men told the jury that Harper had made a full confession of the crime on the night of January 7. A vast amount of the testimony given was unprintable. The defense attempted to set up an alibi for Harper Wednesday, but only one witness, the defendant's father, swore that the Negro was at another place when he was alleged to have attacked the woman in Upton's Lane.

Yesterday morning Harper took the witness stand in his own defense and denied all knowledge of the crime, repudiated his confession and swore that police officers frightened him into confessing that he was guilty of the assault. Six or seven Norfolk and Portsmouth police officials and two newspaper reporters testified Wednesday that Harper had made his confession without any threat or promises being made to him.

According to the victim of the assault, Harper struck her as she was walking along Commerical place, dragged her into the lane and criminally attacked and robbed her. This happened at about 6:30 or 6:35 o'clock at night, she testified.

In his testimony before the jury, Harper testified that he had been working for a bottling company on January 6 and that he had quit work at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon. He then went to a telephone and called his "girl," he testified, and went home to his sister's for supper. After eating, he said he dressed and went to his father's home and then met some boys and girls and went to a movie at about 8:30 o'clock. He said he arrived at his father's home at about 6:45 o'clock and left about 8 o'clock. This testimony was the same as that given by Samuel Harper, the defendant's father, on Wednesday.

Louis Reed, a Negro who said he worked with Harper at the bottling company plant and on a delivery truck, corroborated Harper's testimony about quitting work at 5:30 o'clock on January 6 and about the tleephone call. He said, however, that he had not seen Harper after about 5:30 o'clock that afternoon.

Argument of McCoy

In his argument to the jury, Commonwealth's Attorney McCoy reviewed the testimony and asked the jury to convict the Negro and send him to the electric chair.

The woman in the case is a nervous wreck, according to her mother and other relatives who testified Wednesday. She has been under the constant care of a physician since she was attacked. Harper was arrested on a minor charge by police here less than 24 hours after the crime was committed. He answered the description given by the woman and Detectives Leon Nowitzky and W. C. Spencer, assigned to the case, im- [illegible]stioning him.

News
RICHMOND
VIRGINIA

APR 23 1931

THE NORFOLK GRAND JURY ACTS

A grand jury of some of Norfolk's best citizens took the first step yesterday in the vindication of Virginia justice from the discredit it received in the case of WILLIAM HARPER.

The grand jury brought an indictment for perjury against the woman who swore that she had lain unconscious in an alley after having been criminally assaulted by HARPER, whereas other witnesses testified she was in a North Carolina dance hall at that very time. An indictment for perjury was also found against the woman who corroborated the story, on the strength of which HARPER was condemned to death at his first trial. The [redacted] was indicted for robbery, and the commonwealth's attorney was rebuked for refusing to talk with the accusing woman when she came to his office with the reported intention of repudiating the whole or a part of her testimony before the second trial began.

All Virginia hopes for an early trial under the perjury indictments. If they are sustained in court, Virginia will expect sentences in keeping with the offense of swearing a man's life away in order to cover up a gay party at a roadhouse. The South has often said, and rightly said, that rape should be punished with quick legal execution as a warning to every potential assailant of women. By the same sound logic, false testimony when a life is at stake must be punished to the limit of the law as a warning to all who would perjure themselves to another's hurt. The statutes of Virginia are lax in dealing with perjury. It may be punished with a fine or with a jail sentence of not exceeding one year, at the discretion of the jury, though the extreme penalty is a penitentiary term not exceeding ten years. In this case, if guilt is established, the woman should be sent to the penitentiary into the death-chamber of which her sworn testimony so nearly carried a Negro whose worst crime, if there was a crime, was robbery, and not rape.

NORFOLK, VA.
LEDGER DISPATCH

JUN 5 - 1931

HARPER CASE BACKFIRE

It seems necessary to return to the dirty Harper case once more, and for an unpleasant reason.

In the minds of all thoughtful people, white and colored, the result of the final trial of the young Negro was only what decency and elementary justice demanded. It attracted a vast deal of attention throughout the state because of the dramatic or melodramatic circumstances and incidents connected with it. But the acquittal of Harper was a foregone conclusion as soon as it was known that numerous white men and women had come forward to prove that he could not have been guilty of the crime with which he stood charged.

It is emphasized that all thoughtful people, white and colored, realized that the result of the second trial was a triumph for justice and fair-dealing over a brutal attempt to send an innocent man to death.

But all the people, white and colored, are not thoughtful. Some of them are vicious; some of them are violent; some of them are cruelly disposed; and some of them are fools.

There is a feeling in certain sections of Norfolk that some members of the ignorant, idle, worthless element of Negroes are actually puffed up—idiotically puffed up—over the result of the Harper trial. They have an idea—these sub-moronic semi-idiots—that they can "get away" with things nowadays that they would never have dared attempt before. Knowing this, or believing this, there is an element among the white people that metaphorically has its hand on its gun. Those who compose this element have something like a chip on their shoulder—worse than that.

It behooves, then, the strong men, the leaders, the men of influence, among our Negroes to make special and extraordinary efforts to spread among the ignorant, the foolish, the misguided, of their group the knowledge that those of them who are even listening to the folly of dangerous fools are sitting on a volcano. It behooves the white people to help the leaders among the Negroes to spread this knowledge, and it behooves them to try to make those of their own people who might be violent realize that only a few of the lowest type of Negro could be such suicidal fools as to listen to the vicious talk of depraved loafers and thugs.

We need coolness, watchfulness and good sense just now—and a lot of them.

WHITE WOMAN'S LIE TO COST HER FIVE YEARS OF FREEDOM

Amsterdam News

7-8-31

Swore That Colored Man Attacked Her to Hide Her Immoralities With Married Man From Her Own Husband

New York, N.Y.

NORFOLK, Va., July 6.—Five years in the penitentiary is the penalty a jury here Thursday decided a white woman must pay for her perjured testimony which sent William Harper, 22 into the shadow of the electric chair on a framed-up charge of assault and robbery.

Mrs. Dorothy Skaggs, Portsmouth white woman, complaining witness in the famous "Harper case," wept in the embrace of her husband as the verdict of 12 Newport News citizens, specially called to try this case, was read to her. Her attorneys immediately made a motion for a new trial, arguments on which will be heard in Corporation Court No. 1 here on July 18.

The verdict closed another chapter in the most unusual "A-Negro-did-it" case in the history of Virginia courts. On the woman's complaint Harper had been tried, convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair. New evidence discovered by a white lawyer appointed by the court to defend him resulted in a second trial for the alleged assault. He was acquitted and passed back across the threshold of a death chamber to freedom.

A special grand jury of prominent Norfolk citizens, appointed after vigorous insistence of two white dailies and the Journal and Guide, indicted Mrs. Skaggs for perjury in connection with her testimony as to her movements subsequent to the alleged assault, and indicted Harper for robbery from the person of Mrs. Skaggs.

The commonwealth's attorney was disqualified from prosecuting the new indictments because of his connection with the two Harper trials. James G. Martin was appointed by the court to represent the state. On his request the robbery charge against Harper was nolle prossed.

Repeated devices were used by the woman's lawyers to delay the trial, the chief one being that her husband, machinist in the Navy, and stationed on the West Coast, was material witness and had no mo with which to come to Norfolk. But the motion for continuance on this ground was denied. When the trial began Monday, E. S. Skaggs, the husband, was present.

After four days of evidence and arguments, during which Mrs. Skaggs maintained her story of rape, and high officials in the police department testified that Harper's confession was obtained without threats or promises, she was found guilty.

Most unusual of all the striking features of the case was the testimony of a dozen or more white people tending to prove that the woman was not in Norfolk on the night of January 6 when she claims to have been assaulted, but was in Elizabeth City, N. C., with a married man. Her paramour of that night, W. B. Kidd, also gave evidence that he took her to a dance hall that night and was with her until 7 o'clock the next morning.

It was entirely on the affidavits of Kidd and the other white witnesses that Harper was granted a second trial and ultimately given his liberty. Mrs. Skaggs framed the rape story to hide her immortalities from her husband.

TOLD LIE ON NEGRO IN RAPE CASE

Call

7-10-31

Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Dorothy Skaggs of Norfolk Sentenced to Five Years

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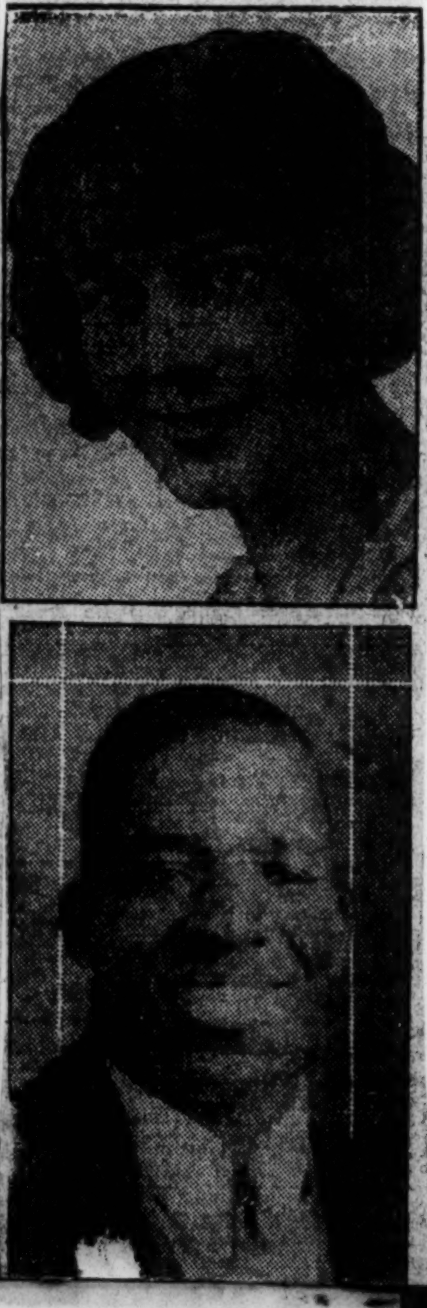
Prison for Perjurer



Upper photo shows Mrs. Dorothy Skaggs, white, of Norfolk, Va., who was sentenced by a jury of white Virginians to spend five years in the penitentiary for falsely accusing William Harper (shown below) of criminal assault. Harper was first sentenced to be electrocuted, but on a second trial was set free when white people testified Mrs. Skaggs had been on an all-night roadhouse party the night she claimed Harper attacked her.

—Journal and Guide Photos.

Lynchings-1931
6

Virginia
6

3534

Legal Punishment for Rape.

BALTIMORE, MD.
SUN

JUL 6 1931

COMMENTARY ON LYNCHING

Norfolk has recently produced a case which, though no mob was involved, might well be used to illustrate the hazards and uncertainties of the mob law which some Southern communities still insist on meting out to Negroes accused of crime against white women.

The Norfolk case is one in which on January 7 a young white woman reported to the police that she had been attacked by a Negro. She gave a detailed circumstantial account of the alleged crime and on her information the police rounded up a suspect whom she identified as her assailant. Prior to the trial the Negro is said to have made a confession to the police, which was later withdrawn and a plea of not guilty entered. On January 29 the Negro was convicted and sentenced to death in the electric chair.

His attorneys did not, however, give up hope. They discovered evidence that the woman victim of the alleged attack had been at a North Carolina dance hall forty miles from Norfolk at the time she had testified she was unconscious at the scene of the alleged crime. This and other testimony created such a furor that a special grand jury was convoked to review the whole case, with the result that the woman was indicted for perjury. Tried on this indictment last week, she was convicted and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. The Negro, meanwhile, had been acquitted at a second trial of the offense for which he had first been sentenced to die.

This case ought to make those States which still tolerate lynching extremely uneasy. Here is a case in which the law itself came to the brink of a terrible mistake. Since the law was responsible, however, a means of correction and redress was at hand. How many comparable mistakes have been made by irresponsible mobs for whose action there was no redress it is impossible to say.

Argus
St. Louis, Mo.
7-17-31

FIVE YEARS TOO SHORT

A white woman, who was convicted of perjury a short while ago in Virginia, received a sentence of five years' imprisonment. This, we think, was inadequate punishment based upon the gravity of the offence for which she was convicted.

To be sure, to swear falsely and to perjure one's self are very common in the courts of the land today; and the officials of the court seem to make an allowance for such testimony, and thus thousands commit perjury and the deed is passed over without apparent judical notice. But the unusual about this case is, a white woman was convicted for swearing falsely against a colored man. Hence, our attention is attracted to the extent that we offer this comment.

The story, as we have received it, stated that one George Hughes, a Negro, was convicted of rape upon the woman in the case. She, being the principal prosecuting witness, swore that on a certain date and hour George Hughes attacked her; and, upon this testimony, Hughes was convicted, and of course was under death sentence. It was later found that the woman in the case on the date of the alleged attack was forty miles away, and that the testimony was a "frame-up" because of some other alleged grievances which she had against Hughes.

We stated above that the five years were inadequate punishment for the woman in this case. Just think of it. Think of what might have happened in Virginia where a Negro is accused and identified of having made a criminal assault uopn a white woman.

NILES, OHIO, TIMES
Friday, July 10, 1931

55

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Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
7-22-31

White Woman Perjurer To Get Another Trial

NORFOLK, Va., July 20.—A motion by defense counsel to set aside the verdict and grant a new trial for Mrs. Dorothy Skaggs, white, who was found guilty of perjury growing out of the testimony she gave in the famous "Harper Case," was sustained by Judge B. D. White of the Princess Ann County Circuit Court Saturday, and a new trial granted.

Ten additional affidavits were introduced as evidence by the defense, most of them purporting to show that Mrs. Skaggs was not at Saroon's Dance Hall on the night of January 6 when, she charged, she was criminally assaulted by William Harper in Upton's lane, in Norfolk, about 6:35 p. m., and remained unconscious until about 10:30 p .m.

For the first time in the history of the sensational trial, an alleged witness has been discovered, according to one of the affidavits, who actually saw a woman lying in Upton's lane unconscious on the night in question.

MODESTO, CAL.
NEWS HERALD

JUL 15 193

Virginia Case Holds Moral For Lynchers

Last January in Norfolk, Virginia, it was reported to the police that a young white woman had been attacked by a Negro. On her information the police captured a man whom she identified as her assailant. The Negro presently was put on trial, found guilty and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Fortunately the defense lawyers did not drop the case at this point. They did some sleuthing, and soon discovered that at the time the crime was supposed to have been committed the woman was not in Norfolk at all, but at a dance hall in a small town forty miles away.

The Negro was retried and acquitted, and the woman was tried for perjury, convicted and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. Thus the case had a happier ending than it might easily have had.

The principal point that this story raises in one's mind is one connected with the lynchings that still take place in many states when Negroes are accused of similar offenses.

In this Norfolk case the law was able to correct its initial mistake and furnish at least partial compensation. But if a mob had been dealing with it the mistake would never have been discovered and the victim would have been long past that stage of affairs at which human compensation becomes forever impossible.

There is a moral in this which states and communities that still tolerate lynching would do well to let soak in pretty deeply. It is evident that not all accusations of this kind have a solid foundation in fact. And it is better never to close the door too hastily on what may prove to be a very reasonable doubt.

SCRANTON, PA.
TIMES

JUL 11 19

GOOD AND NOT SO GOOD

(From the Springfield Republican.)

Not only did lynchings in the United States dec[illegible] the first half of the year, compared with the first half of 1930, but last week, at Norfolk, Va., a white woman was sentenced to five years in prison for falsely accusing a negro of having criminally assaulted her. The negro had been convicted on the strength of the woman's testimony but subsequent investigations developed incontestable facts proving her to be a liar. So the white woman perjurer instead of the negro goes to the penitentiary.

This is agreeable reading in contrast to the Scottsboro (Ala.) case. Eight negro youths are under sentence of death in Alabama—all for the same crime, which involved an encounter with another hobo gang of white youth and some white girls stealing a railroad ride in a freight car. Doubt exists as to the fairness of the trial and the justice of the verdict. The execution of all eight of the negro defendants must seem almost like a legal massacre.

Radicals in Europe are agitating in behalf of the Scottsburg negroes and Prof. Einstein himself has been persuaded to cable President Hoover in protest against the coming executions. No one should complain of that. Yet it is to be hoped that the case of Mrs. Skaggs, the Virginia white woman imprisoned for falsely accusing a negro, will now be brought to the attention of the celebrated German scientist, who has lately written in praise of democracy in America.

DEFENDANT ON STAND STICKS TO HER STORY

Harper "Identified" As Being Near Lane On January 6

Journal and Guide

The climax of the Commonwealth's case against Mrs. Catherine Ketchum, Portsmouth white woman, on a charge of perjury growing out of the testimony she has given in the Harper-Skaggs case, was reached Wednesday when evidence was presented in the Norfolk Corporation Court to the effect that Mrs. Ketchum had privately admitted she testified falsely.

Phillip W. Thomas, foreman of the jury which convicted William Harper at his first trial on a charge of attacking and robbing Mrs. Dorothy Skaggs, testified that during Mrs. Skaggs' trial some weeks ago he talked with Mrs. Ketchum and she said to him: "I had to stick to my story because the lawyers and officers connected with the case told me that if I didn't, I would surely go to jail." 9-5-31

Told Trial Judge

Thomas declared while on the witness stand that he later spoke to Judge B. D. White of Princess Anne County, who presided at Mrs. Skaggs' trial, about his conversation with Mr. Ketchum, but that he didn't know what was done about it, if anything.

Thomas denied that he had ever talked to E. S. Skaggs, husband of Harper's accuser, and that in fact Skaggs had threatened "to beat me up if I even spoke to him." Thomas likewise denied ever having talked to Wm. Harper since Mrs. Skaggs' trial. He made memorandums at Harper's first trial for his own benefit, the witness said.

Thomas' testimony was considered the cost important offered by the prosecution. It was admitted Wednesday morning following the heated objection late Tuesday of defense counsel.

Norfolk Va.

Trial Began Tuesday

The trial began early Tuesday, following many delays and postponements Most of the prosecution witnesses were those who had been heard either in Harper's second trial, at which he was found not guilty, or in Mrs. Skaggs' trial, at which she was found guilty of perjury and sentenced to five years in prison.

Their testimony tended to show that Mrs. Skaggs was either enroute to or in North Carolina on the night she said Harper attacked her, and that Mrs. Ketchum consequently perjured herself when she said Mrs. Skaggs had come to her home on that night about 11 o'clock and remained until some time the next day.

The Commonwealth rested its case at 11:110 Wednesday morning, after which a short recess was ordered by Judge R. T. Wilson, of Petersburg, presiding during the August term for Judge William H. Sargeant.

Court Overrules Motion

Before the recess the defense attorney asked the court to strike out all the presecution evidence on the ground of the lack of credibility of the witnesses. Judge Wilson overruled the motion, declaring that "The credibility of all witnesses' testimony rests entirely with the jury and not with the court."

Defense Attorney Lester Parsons noted an exception.

Witnesses heard Wednesday before the Commonwealth rested its case, in addition to Thomas, included Ward L. ("Kingfish") Ashmore, a sailor assigned to the U. S. S. Arizona; Charles A. Sickler, and D. H. Jordan, all of whom are white.

Special Prosecutor James G. Martin refused to rest the Commonwealth's case until reassured by Judge Wilson that he could offer as rebuttal evidence, testimony tending to show that Mrs. Skaggs was not in Upton's Lane or at Mrs. Ketchum's on the night she said she was attacked by Harper in the lane. He was given such assurance.

Giving of Oath Attacked

Attorney Parsons in asking that Commonwealth evidence be stricken from the records centered his attack on the testimony of Aubrey Graham, deputy court clerk, on the grounds that Graham was not positive whether he swore in Mrs. Ketchum properly at Mrs. Skaggs' trial. Graham insisted Mrs. Ketchum was duly sworn before she gave the testimoy which formed the basis of her indictment for perjury.

Attorney Parsons asked Tuesday that he be allowed to present depositions taken from witnesses in North Carolina. Lawyers attending the trial said the point brought up by the defense attorney in this connection had never before been advanced in a Virginia court, and predicted that, regardless of Judge Wilson's ruling, it would be taken to the State Court of Appeals.

Mr. Parsons and Mr. Martin offered cases in support of and in opposition to the motion, respectively. Judge Wilson said he would reserve his decision until later in the trial.

The jury, selected from a special trial panel, is composed of Brooks M. Anderson, Charles McDermott, Jr., Thomas A. Bain, George R. Abbott, Jr., V. Bidgood, Frank Blake, C. Fred Bonney, P. A. Cason, Lewis M. Cooper, G. E. Ferebee, Carlton H. Furr, and James Ringold Guy.

Tuesday Witnesses

Witnesses Tuesdasy included, besides those arleady named, W. H. Starkey, Harper's attorney in his first and second trial; W. B. Kidd, whose testimony shattered the Commonwealth's charges against Harper at his second trial; C. F. Harrell, a farmer living near Elizabeth City, N. C.; J. E. McPherson, of near South Mills, N. C., whose presence he attributed to a letter written him by the Governor of North Carolina, asking him to come to Norfolk and testify; Mrs. J. F. Brittian, of Portsmouth, who at previous trials said Mrs. Skaggs admitted her charges false and that she had been furnished with an identification of Harper before she picked him out of a police lineup; and Mrs. W. B. Kidd, wife of the star witness of previous Harper-Skaggs trials.

Conviction on a charge of perjury, Judge Wilson announced Tuesday, carries penalty of one to ten years in prison or a fine not exceeding $1,000, or both, in the discretion of the jury.

Mrs. Skaggs is under sentence of five years in prison for perjury as a result of her conviction recently by a jury brought from Newport News. She allegedly gave false testimony in bringing her charges against Harper. She has been granted a new trial and is to be tried later this month.

Following the recess Wednsday morning morning Mrs. Ketchum took the stand. She admitted that she had talked with Thomas, but denied she told him her story was false. "When he asked me why I struct to my story she said, "I told him—why shouldn't I? It is the truth."

She said witnesses from out of town could not be brought here to testify for her, as she could not pay their fare and asked the court to accept their depositions. Attorney Parsons she said was representing her free of cost.

She reiterated her testimony at previous trials and said Mrs. Skaggs did come to her home on the night of the alleged attack about 11 o'clock.

New Witness Heard.

Charles E. McNeal, white, of 1321 W 39th St., Norfolk, was called as a defense witness Wednesday and gave a detailed account of his movements up to the time he went into Upton's Lane on January 6 about 10:10 "to relieve myself" and saw a woman lying on the south side of the lane near a partly opened door with her clothing badly disarranged.

He walked through the lane west to Roanoke St., he said, and at the corner of Roanoke St., and Water St., he saw a "darky" grinning at him. He sought a policeman through several nearby blocks unsuccessfully, he said, and returned to the lane, but the woman had disappeared.

At this juncture Harper was brought into the court room and was positively identified by McNeal as the "darky" he had seen near the lane. He said until Tuesday when he saw Harper in court he had not seen him since that night.

He said he was in the vicinity because he was looking for his brtoher to arrive on a oyster boat at a nearby dock. He did not know about the case until July 3 when his wife read from a newspaper to him about the case.

Inspector of Detectives On Stand

Inspector of Detectives T. L. Petty testified that Skaggs came to his office once and telephoned a man he addressed as "Bully" and that he listened to the conversation over another telephone. "Bully" denied to Skaggs that he had taken a woman to Elizabeth City, the detective said, and declared that he had gone there with Ashmore. Ashmore has testified that on the night of January 6 he returned to Portsmouth with Kidd and Mrs. Skaggs.

Statements were read from two witnesses, J. S. Dement and R. M. Proud, who could not be present, giving the same testimony they had previously given relative to Mrs. Skaggs movements on the night of the supposed attack.

Mrs. C. H. Marks, white, said she saw Mrs. Skaggs at the corner of Washington and High Streets, Portsmouth, on January 6 between 6:55 and 7;10 and talked with her. Mrs. Skaggs, she said, was intoxicated.

Mrs. Skaggs alleged she lay unconscious in the lane from 6:35 until after 10 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex W. Rodgers, also white, of Portsmouth, were called as court witnesses, but were allowed to be cross-examined by the Commonwealth. They repeated previous testimony about Mrs. Skaggs' habits and time of leaving their home, where she lived, which they said was after the hour she said she was attacked.

Two witnesses were called but Judge Wilson refused to allow them to testify on account of the nature of their testimony, which was not revealed. They were a Mr. Cartwright, cafe operator on Commercial Place about 100 yards from Upton's Lane and Joseph Willoughby.

Lynchings-1931

Alabama

3357

Legal Punishment for Lynchers.

Dothan Floggers Are Sentenced

Advertiser

6-2-31

Slayers Of Wes Skipper Plead Guilty And Get Five To 10-Year Terms

Montgomery, Ala.

DOTHAN, ALA., June 1.—(AP)—Six men, indicted for murder for the slaying of Wes Skipper, 40-year-old tenant farmer, during a visit to his home to flog him, today entered pleas of guilty to manslaughter in Houston Circuit Court and drew sentences of from five to 10 years in the State penitentiary at Montgomery.

Fred McCary, whom officers said was charged by his five companions with firing the shot that killed Skipper, was sentenced to 10 years in the State prison. The other five, John M. Pippin, Althus Rice, Jonah Newton, Shelly Barber and Sede Barton, each was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Officers said the six men admitted going to the Skipper home on the night of Feb. 9 to flog him "because he was so sorry," and that during an argument he was shot. McCary denied the charges of the other five that he shot Skipper, declaring the shot rang out as he struck the dead man.

Skipper was shot at 10 o'clock at night and died the following day. Mrs. Skipper was taken into custody after she told officers three men whom she could not identify called her husband to the door and shot him. She was released after McCary, a neighbor, and the other five were indicted.

CANTON, O.
REPOSITORY

JUL 28 1931

Other Editorial Opinions

YES OR NO?

If eight white men were accused of assaulting two white girls who were riding as hoboes on a freight train in a northern state wouldn't testimony as to the character of the two girls be admitted as a proper and necessary part of the defense?

Then why shouldn't the same apply in the case of eight Negroes accused of committing such a crime under similar circumstances in a southern state?

These eight Negroes in Alabama have been convicted and sentenced to die. They were convicted largely on the testimony of the two girls in a community so violently prejudiced that militia had to guard the courthouse during the trial.

The verdict and sentence aroused strong protest in other parts of the country. The case has been appealed. A new trial is sought. Defense Counsel George W. Chamblee, of Chatanooga, declares he has proof that the reputations of the two girls were bad. He also says:—

> "As a man who has practiced law in the criminal courts for many years I assert that the most dangerous and one of the most undependable witnesses in the world is a woman testifying in an assault charge against a Negro."

Is that true, or isn't it?

Does American justice condemn a Negro to death on evidence that would not be sufficient to convict a white man?

These are ugly questions of long standing.

It is time they were squarely faced and answered.—New York World-Telegram.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Florida

3499

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
JOURNAL

AUG 31 1931

Governor Probes Lynchings of Two

TALLAHASSEE, Aug. 31—(AP)—Governor Carlton today said he would see to it that a thorough investigation is made into the lynching of two negroes near Blountstown Friday night.

He said the state would assist local officials in an effort to learn who took part in the lynchings and would prosecute if any evidence is uncovered.

"They not only lynched the negroes, they lynched the state of Florida," he said.

A masked band shot two negroes to death Friday night after the negroes, father and son, had been released from jail on bond following their arrest for attacking a white man.

POLICE SEEK IDENTITY OF FLORIDA LYNCHERS

BLOUNTSTOWN, Fla., Aug. 29. (AP)—State Attorney John Carter and Sheriff R. J. Flanders tonight continued their efforts to identify members of a masked band which last night lynched two negroes near here.

The negroes, Richard and Charley Smoke, father and son, were shot to death at their home following their release from jail on bond. They were arrested for attacking and seriously wounding Frazier Williams, a woods rider, at a turpentine camp last Tuesday. Williams was said to be recovering in a Panama City hospital.

The sheriff's office was told the masked men went to the negroes' home late last night and ordered the pair to walk up the road. Before the negroes had proceeded far they were riddled by rifle, shotgun and pistol fire. Both were killed outright.

SUN
Clearwater Fla.

AUG 30 1931

OFFICERS SEEK LYNCHING PARTY

Florida Band Shoots Negro Pair Charged With Attack on White Man

BLOUNTSTOWN, Aug. 29.—(AP)—Authorities tonight continued their search for members of a masked band which lynched two negroes south of here last night. The search thus far has been fruitless.

The negroes had been released from jail on bond after having been charged with attacking Frazier Williams, a woods rider.

The negroes, Richard and Charley Smoke, father and son, were shot to death by a fusillade of rifle and pistol shots. A coroner's investigation early today held the men had come to their deaths at the hands of a band of masked men.

The negroes were turpentine workers. They were bailed out of jail by their employer and were said to have been on their way home last night when seized by the mob.

Williams was attacked and beaten by two negroes last Tuesday.

Sheriff R. J. Flanders started an investigation today and said he hoped to be able to learn the identity of at least some of the members of the mob.

KEY WEST, FLA.
CITIZEN

AUG 31 1931

GOVERNOR WANTS LYNCHING PROBED

CARLTON SAYS STATE WILL ASSIST COUNTY OFFICERS IN MATTER

(By Associated Press)

TALLAHASSEE, Aug. 31.—Governor Carlton said today he would see that a thorough investigation is made into the lynching of two negroes at Blountstown Friday night.

He said the state will assist county authorities. The mob not only lynched the negroes; it lynched the state of Florida as well," he said.

HERALD
Sanford, Fla.

AUG 31 1931

Carlton Will Make Probe Into Lynching

TALLAHASSEE, Aug. 31. —(A.P.)—Governor Carlton said today he would see that a thorough investigation will be made into the lynching of two negroes at Blountstown Friday night. He said the state would assist county authorities. "They not only lynched the negroes they lynched the State of Florida," he said.

DEMOCRAT
Tallahassee, Fla.

AUG 31 1931

GOVERNOR TO PROBE BLOUNTSTOWN MOB

Orders Investigation Into Lynching of Negroes

Governor Carlton today said he would see to it that a thorough investigation is made into the lynching of two negroes near Blountstown Friday night.

He said the state would assist local officials in an effort to learn who took part in the lynchings and would prosecute if any evidence is uncovered.

"They not only lynched the negroes, they lynched the state of Florida,' he said.

A masked band shot two negroes to death Friday night after the negroes, father and son, had been released from jail on bond following their arrest for attacking a white man.

Atlanta, Ga., Georgian.
Tuesday, September 1, 1931

GOV. DOYLE PRAISED IN STAND ON LYNCHING

Praise of the stand taken by Governor Doyle E. Carlton, of Florida, in connection with the recent lynching of two negroes at Blountstown, was contained Tuesday in a telegram sent the Florida executive by Dr. W. W. Alexander, of Atlanta, executive director of the commission on interracial co-operation. The message said the lynching was "peculiarly flagrant and indefensible."

ATLANTA, GA.
GEORGIAN

SEP 1 1931

GOV. DOYLE PRAISED IN STAND ON LYNCHING

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Lynchings - 1931

General

3506

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

DEMOCRAT

Carthage, Mo

SEP 13 1931

"CONFIDENTIAL" ON LYNCHING

How can there be an official report, confidential or otherwise, on a lynching outrage without passing on the failure of national guardsmen and their commander, who were on the spot, to prevent it? Attorney General Shartel, replying to a recent editorial in this newspaper, says he made a "confidential" report to Governor Caulfield August 6 on the Maryville tragedy. He says he obtained the names of the mob leaders but the grand jury refused to act. That is nothing new. Everybody knows it is virtually impossible to indict and convict leaders of these mobs in any state once a lynching occurs. Missouri, despite Mr. Shartel's statement, is no more "backward" in that respect than any other commonwealth.

What these other states, some of them much farther south than Missouri, do, and shame Missouri in doing it, is to prevent lynchings and disperse lynching mobs by use of the national guard and a vigorous display of authority under the governor's orders. Governor Caulfield sent the adjutant general to Maryville in plenty of time and the adjutant general assembled the guardsmen in the local armory. Under the state law the adjutant general, state commander of the guard, had full authority to act and he did not do so. Mr. Shartel's letter makes no mention of this episode. Either he did not report on the most important point in the whole affair, or if he did report on it, the governor still holds the document as "confidential" and has not acted.

Missouri can't afford to let this Maryville record stand when Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee suppress these crimes by stern action. No punishment and no disciplining for anybody in this Maryville crime is notice to any mob that assembles for lynching, anywhere in Missouri, that its members have nothing to fear.—St. Louis Star.

Georgia.

3507

Lynchings - 1931
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Judge C. C. Pittman Orders Probe Of Negro Lynching in Cartersville

Constitution 1-13-31
Atlanta, Ga.

CARTERSVILLE, Ga., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—Judge Claude C. Pittman in his charge to the grand jury summoned for the January term of Bartow superior court, charged that body to investigate the recent lynching of John Will Clark, who was put to death here last October.

"It is my duty," said Judge Pittman, "to ask that you investigate the recent lynching in our town and make a report of your findings touching the same. It is not within my province to direct the kind or character of investigation you shall make. All I am duty-bound to say and require is investigate, find and report in accordance with the oaths you have taken. I am sure you will do this without other suggestions on the part of the court and I am sure nobody will criticize you for performing a sworn duty."

After quoting a supreme court justice who was noted in his day for upholding the majesty of the law. Judge Pittman charged the grand jurors as follows:

"A government by law, courts, witnesses, jurors and officers is a government by the people, ordained and guaranteed by the supreme law of the land, the federal constitution, and it is the government for which our fathers and soldiers have freely died. You and I have sworn before man and God, have registered our oaths in heaven that we will carry on such a government. A government by a mob is a government without laws, without witnesses, jurors and officers and is a government by men only, and a revolution against the government by law. No American soldier in all the long history of this republic has ever died, or ever will die, in defense of a government by mob."

In closing his remarks Judge Pittman charged the grand jurors on the laws of Georgia pertaining to mob violence, and concluded with this significant utterance: "You and I did not make these laws, but we are sworn to uphold and enforce them."

U. S. DROPS RIOT TRIAL

Argus
1-16-31

Indictments Against 27 as Result of Lynching a Half-Wit Youth in Oklahoma Quashed

St. Louis, Mo.

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Jan. 15 — The second lynching trial within a week to end with the freedom of the accused was the dropping of charges resulting from the murder of Henry Argo, half-wit colored youth here last May. District Attorney Rapendahl Saturday ordered the release of Frank Riley McClain and indicated he would quash Federal indictments against him and 27 other white men in connection with the mob. Last week at Marion, Indiana, a white man was freed in a trial growing out of the lynching of two colored youths last summer.

Plunged Knife In Neck

The charges against the men in Oklahoma arose from burning of an army truck used by national guardsmen in an attempt to disperse the mob from around Grady County jail where Argo was lynched.

Among those indicted is G. W. Skinner, husband of a white farm woman who Argo was accused of attacking. Skinner led the mob and plunged a knife in Argo's neck as he lay dying as a result of the mob's attack.

EARLY COUNTY NEGRO PAYS DEATH PENALTY

Constitution
1-17-31
Atlanta, Ga.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Jan. 16. (AP)—Edgar Jenkins, young Early county negro Friday paid with his life for an attack upon two white girls, 14 and 9 years of age.

The father of the children witnessed the electrocution which took place at the state prison farm here.

Three charges of electricity were necessary for death of the negro youth, who was reported to have confessed shortly before the electric switch was thrown.

Sheriff Sid Howell, of Early county, said after the execution that the attack took place near Blakely, December 24, and shortly afterward Jenkins was arrested and taken to the Dougherty county jail at Albany.

Judge M. J. Yeomans called a special term of Blakely superior court when Jenkins was tried December 22, convicted and sentenced to die.

After the trial the negro youth was returned to the Albany jail and was not brought here until Wednesday in custody of Sheriff Howell.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Indiana.

3508

THE MARION ACQUITTAL

The acquittal by a Grant County jury of one of the alleged participants and ring leaders of the mob that lynched two colored youths in the city of Marion last August was as much of a surprise as it was a disgrace upon the good name of the State of Indiana.

Recorder
1-10-31

Involved in the unfortunate circumcumstance is much that should be seriously disquieting to law-abiding citizens. Citizens who followed up the case as tried in Marion are of the opinion that its merits were not gone into with the legal thoroughness befitting its importance, and we are heartily in accord with the latter reasoning.

Indianapolis
Indiana

We venture to say, that the results of the recent trial in the Grant County Court would have been very decidedly different had the accused been a member of the Negro race. Marion is reputed to be the hotbed of Klan activities and a center of racial antagonism. There was a time it is said when the two races lived side by side in the little Hoosier city in perfect peace and harmony. That relationship ceased with the advent of D. C. Stephensonism that sent its leader to the State Penitentiary to serve a life term.

In the opinion of many a change of venue would be the logical step to effect in the Marion Lynching case. Nothing is capable of being accomplished in the matter of obtaining desired results in Grant County saturated as it is with the spirit of race hatred and narrow political humbugs.

The splendid effort expended in the case in the name of fairplay and justice by Attorney General Ogden is highly commendable. The able and courageous State Attorney is nevertheless handicapped by what is generally regarded as official non-co-operation and concerted local public adverse sentiment. Opposition as formidable as that is insurmountable enough to discourage any honest attempt to see that justice is done. Trial of the other alleged participants in the Marion Lynching case will be watched with unmixed interest by citizens of Indiana.

HOLD MARION, IND. MOB SUSPECT ON BONDS OF $2,000

Chicago, Ill.

MARION, Ind., Jan. 21.—Charles Lennon, 30, said to be one of the leaders of the mob which broke into the county jail here last August and lynched two colored prisoners who were charged with the murder of a young white man, was placed under bonds of $2,000 this week when he was turned over to the authorities after having been a fugitive from justice for more than four months. When affidavits were filed before the grand jury in November naming Lennon among those suspected as taking part in the atrocity, ~~he~~ fled, though twenty-three other suspects were examined by the grand jury and court, and were later acquitted.

LYNCH RECORD IS FOLLOWED BY ENGLISH PRESS

Recorder
2-14-31

DAILY HERALD, NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST, YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS AND OTHERS KEEPING CLOSE TAB

Indianapolis
Indiana

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—The newspapers of England are keeping careful watch on lynching in the United States to judge by the cabled reports they publish of the figures made public for 1930 by the National Association.

Among the English newspapers represented in the latest batch of clippings received all making use of the Association's records, are: London Daily Herald, Nottingham Evening Post, Yorkshire Evening Press, London Evening Standard, London Daily Telegraph, Star, and the Paris edition of the Daily Mail.

In addition Hubert W. Peet, who last year on a visit to the United State called at the offices of the Association, publishes an extended article in the London Spectator entitled "Why More Lynchings?" in the course of which he quotes from interviews he had with Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, editor of the Crisis; Herbert J. Seligmann, Director of Publicity, as well as officials of the Tuskegge, the Urban League and other organizations actively at work in the field of race relations.

To Face Trial For Marion Lynching

Recorder
2-14-31

CHARLES LENON, ALLEGED MOB PARTICIPANT WILL GO BEFORE JURY FEBRUARY 23.

Indianapolis
Indiana

MARION, Ind., Feb. 13.—The econd trial resulting from the lynching on the Grant County court house lawn of Abe Smith and Thomas Shipp here August 7th, will be held during the week of February 23, when Charles Lenon, one of the alleged leaders will face a charge of participating in the lynching.

Although Sheriff Bert White said Thursday of last week he did not know where the prisoner was, it is understood Lenon was removed to Huntington under the custody of Sheriff Fred Hamilton.

White said, however, that Lenon will be produced when the time comes for his appearance in the Grant County court. Earl Stroup and Merle Wall, deputies to the attorney general were given their choice by Judge Clawson of trying Lenon or Jacob C. Campbell, former Sheriff of Grant county. Campbell is charged with failing to protect Shipp and Smith from the lynchers. The deputies decided to try Lenon. Robert Beshire, was acquitted by a jury in the first lynching trial some weeks ago. The deputies announced they had a much stronger case against Lenon because of evidence brought out in the first trial.

TERRE HAUTE, IND.
TRIBUNE

FEB 11 1931

FACES LYNCHING TRIAL.

MARION, Ind., Feb. 11.—(AP)—Charles Lennon, who was removed to the Huntington county jail for safety, has been returned to the Grant county jail here preparatory to his trial Feb. 23 on a charge of participation in the lynching of two negroes here last Aug. 7.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

FEB 27 1931

ALIBI WITNESSES IN LYNCHING CASE

State Confuses Wife, Others Coming to Defense of Marion Taxi Driver.

[*Special to The Indianapolis Star.*]

MARION, Ind., Feb. 26.—Seven witnesses were called by the defense in Circuit court this afternoon, four of whom endeavored to set up an alibi for Charles Lennon, 30 years old, taxi driver charged with being one of the leaders of a Marion mob which lynched two Negroes last Aug. 7.

The four were Lennon's wife, his brother-in-law, Paul Thompson; Sol Riddle and his wife, Mary Riddle.

Evidence for the alibi came after four men had named Lennon definitely as one of the mob leaders. One of the witnesses testified Lennon was inside the jail at the time the Negro youths, Shipp and Smith, were dragged out. Drysdale Brannon, Marion newspaper man; Billy Connors, theater manager, and Lewis Lindemuth, chief of police, identified the defendant as one of the active mobsters. Garl Peterson, patrolman, said he saw Lennon inside the jail, shouting encouragement to the followers.

Wife Weeps on Stand.

Peterson was questioned at length, and was the strongest witness used by the state.

Mrs. Lennon, who remained calm under direct examination, broke down on the witness stand under the insistent cross-questioning of Earl Stroup, deputy attorney general. She wept for a time and then gained control of herself just before being led from the stand. She became confused frequently under cross-examination.

Paul Riddle, who, with Thompson and the two women, claimed to have been with Lennon at the jail and to have departed in company with him before the lynching took place, also became confused in major parts of his story when cross-questioned by Merl M. Wall, deputy attorney general.

May Go to Jury Today.

The state rested late this afternoon and the seven defense witnesses were questioned before court adjourned. Defense counsel declined to state whether or not they would place Lennon on the stand in his own defense when the court opened tomorrow. State's attorneys expect to use no rebuttal witnesses, according to Mr. Stroup.

Indications are that the case will be given to the jury before noon, tomorrow.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

FEB 26 1931

CAMPBELL HEARD IN LYNCHING CASE

Testifies Lennon Was in Forefront of Mob—Jury All Farmers.

[*Special to The Indianapolis Star.*]

MARION, Ind., Feb. 25.—After examing 139 veniremen in their efforts to pick a jury for the trial of Charles Lennon, 30 years old, alleged leader of the mob which lynched two Negroes here, state and defense attorneys late today decided on twelve men, all farmers.

After a brief recess the state swore in the first witness, Jacob C. Campbell, sheriff at the time of the lynching and who now is facing a charge of neglect of official duty in connection with the lynching.

Campbell definitely identified Lennon as one of the men in the foremost ranks of the mob, but said he did not see him actively engaged in hanging the two Negro youths, Abe Smith and Tom Ship. Court was adjourned after the Campbell testimony and will be resumed tomorrow morning.

Death Verdict Not Sought.

The state expects to put not more than twenty witnesses on the stand, the majority of whom will be sheriff's deputies, present Sheriff Bert White, police officers who were at the jail and newspaper men who were witnesses to the actual hanging.

Lennon's counsel will base defense

on the contention that the former taxi driver was not at or near the jail when the actual hanging took place. Contrary to expectations, Deputy Attorney General Earl Stroup, in his opening statement to the jury, said he would not ask for the death penalty, which is provided for in the statute. Rather, he said he would ask that they find Lennon guilty of aiding in the lynching, which is punishable by two to twenty-one years' imprisonment.

Lennon, the defendant, who had listened attentively but calmly during interrogation of the jurors, became ill at ease when the jurors were at last sworn in. His wife was with him throughout the day.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS

FEB 26 1931

TESTIMONY IN MARION LYNCHING CASE BEGUN

Former Sheriff Identifies Defendant as One of Mob.

DEATH IS NOT DEMANDED

[Special to The Indianapolis News]

MARION, Ind., February 26.—The long, arduous task of getting a jury being completed late Wednesday, the state began the introduction of testimony in the trial of Charles Lennon, taxicab driver, alleged to have been one of the leaders of a mob which lynched two colored youths here in August. The first witness for the state was Jacob C. Campbell, former sheriff, who himself is charged with failure to perform his duty when the youths were lynched.

Campbell unqualifiedly identified Lennon as one of the men in the front ranks of the active mob. He did not testify, however, that Lennon actually participated in beating the youths or that he helped place the rope around their necks. He was questioned at length by the state in setting up the premise that the two youths were in the jail, that a mob did break into the jail and later hung them after they had admitted murder and criminal assault.

He was cross-examined only briefly by the defense and held to his story that he saw Lennon distinctly about eight feet from the foot of the jail steps while the men in the mob were breaking through the jail.

Contrary to expectation of observers, Earl Stroup, deputy attorney-general, in his opening statement, said he and Merl M. Wall, also a deputy attorney-general, would not ask the death penalty. There are two phases of the statute, Stroup said. "One defines actual participation in lynching, which is punishable by life imprisonment or death. The other defines aiding or abetting a lynching, which is punishable by imprisonment of from two to twenty-one years," Stroup said.

Stroup pointed out that the affidavit against Lennon includes both phases of the statute. Roy Dempsey, in the opening statement for the defense, observed briefly that Lennon was the second man being tried on the lynching charge and that the first had been acquitted by a jury.

Throughout the questioning of Campbell his attorney, John R. Browne, stood by the judge's bench, presumably to make mental note of all questions asked and to guard his client's rights in the event his answers might be such as to incriminate himself.

In the questioning of one prospective juror before the jury finally was selected, when he had been challenged for cause by the state, Judge O. D. Clawson inquired. "You don't want to stay on the jury, do you?"

"Well, I am an awfully busy man," the man replied.

"That had something to do with the way you answered the questions, didn't it?" the court suggested.

"No," was the reply.

"You may be excused," said the court.

The jurors decided on after twenty-five hours and questioning of 139 men are Homer C. Pence, Clyde E. Cox, Samuel D. Weesner, Albert Lucas, Edward Bloom, Joseph Petro, Charles Nicholson, William McMasters, Guy F. Hummel, Carl F. Bowman, Benjamin E. Rybolt and J. O. Eaton. All are farmers except McMasters, who is a blacksmith.

STAR
TERRE HAUTE, IND.

FEB 25 1931

JURY NOT COMPLETED FOR LYNCHING TRIAL

MARION, Ind., Feb. 24.—(AP)—Without a single juror definitely accepted from 95 talesmen questioned, Judge O. D. Clawson tonight ordered a third special venire of 50 to report tomorrow in an effort to obtain a jury to hear the trial of Charles Lennon, former Marion taxicab driver, on charges of participating in the lynching of two Negroes here Aug. 7.

The jury box had been filled with men tentatively accepted by both defense and state when court adjourned today, but attorneys said they believed it would be several days before a jury was definitely accepted and sworn. They based their prediction on the marked unwillingness of many prospective jurors to serve and statements by many others they have formed opinions in the case. Fifty-two were questioned today.

Little interest is being manifest by court fans in the proceedings thus far, despite the fact it is believed by some the outcome of Lennon's trial may have some bearing on the cases of five others held under bond on similar charges. Another suspect, Robert Beshire, was acquitted of the charge recently.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS

FEB 28 1931

JURY ACQUITS LENNON OF PART IN LYNCHING

Crowd Cheers as Verdict Is Returned at Marion.

JURORS OUT 18 HOURS

[Special to The Indianapolis News]

MARION, Ind., February 28.—A Grant circuit court jury returned a verdict of not guilty today in the case of Charles Lennon, taxicab driver, second defendant brought to trial on charges of participation in the lynching of two colored youths here last August 7. The jury deliberated eighteen hours.

A small crowd in the courtroom cheered loudly when the verdict was read, but was silenced quickly by Judge O. D. Clawson. On all ballots until the final one the jurors stood eleven to one for acquittal, it is understood.

The previous trial, in which Robert Beshire was defendant, also resulted in acquittal.

Lennon shook hands with members of the jury as they left the courtroom.

The case went to the jury at 12:40 p. m. Friday. Bert White, sheriff, placed police and deputies around the courtroom to prevent any demonstration. There were no threats of disorder of any kind, but a crowd gathered in the courthouse and the sheriff said he would take precautions.

The jury once sent word to Judge Clawson that it was unable to agree and the court sent word back to continue the deliberations. The state contended Lennon was a leader and that his voice was heard above the crowd, encouraging the men who were trying to break into the jail. Lennon's defense was an attempted alibi that while he was at the jail in the evening, he was not there at the time of the actual lynching.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
Sunday, March 1, 1931

INDIANA MAN FREED OF LYNCHING CHARGE

MARION, Ind., Feb. 28.—(AP)—Charles Lennon was acquitted today by a jury of a charge of participating in the lynching of two negroes here last August.

There were no signs of disturbance. The courthouse was guarded by more than a dozen officers during the night while the jury was in deliberation.

LYNCHER TRIED AT MARION AND IS ACQUITTED

3-14-31
Houston, Texas

Marion, Ind.—The second trial of one of the alleged mob murderers who lynched two colored men in Marion, Indiana, has resulted in an acquittal, according to Mrs. W. T. Bailey, of this city, president of the Indiana State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The verdict was returned, Mrs. Bailey reports, "In the face of evidence given by the chief of police, two police reporters and two newspaper reporters, all of whom testified that the man being tried was a member of the mob and helped in the actual breaking into the jail as well as yelling and shouting to the mob to come on.

"The jury was out 21 hours and we were warned not to be in the court room when the verdict was read as in the event of a conviction hell would break out and they intended to get us first. Needless to say, the Doctor closed his office for the afternoon and together with Mr. Pickens we stayed in the court room until evening.

"For two nights during the trial they made a bedlam of our alley shooting and back-firing, and on Thursday a white woman called over the telephone to tell us to be very careful as the taxi-drivers were going to attempt to get us.—Mr. Pickens says he could never have understood what we had undergone if he had not been here six months after the lynching and found the situation as it is.

"It is the opinion of many that the other cases will not be tried but I have written to the Attorney General asking him to continue until every one of the alleged lynchers has been brought to trial."

Mrs. Bailey reports that the Indiana state anti-lynching bill, which recently passed both houses of the legislature will become law, with or without the veto of the Governor. Mrs. Bailey writes:

"After its passage in the house, I wrote every branch in Indiana and all the heads of lodges, clubs etc., to send a letter to their senator to support the bill, and to see that the clauses with teeth in them which were dropped in the house were put back in the bill. This was done and so the bill has passed.

Lynchers At Marion Are Acquitted

3-12-31
Savannah, Ga.

Verdict In Their Favor Returned in Spite of

SURE IDENTIFICATION

Leading Negroes Warned Not to Attend Trial

Marion Ind. March 6—The second trial of one of the alleged mob murderers who lynched two colored men in Marion, Indiana, has resulted in an acquittal, according to Mrs. W. T. Bailey of this city, president of the Indiana State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The verdict was returned, Mrs. Bailey reports, "in the face of evidence given by the chief of police, two police reporters and two newspaper reporters, all of whom testified that the man being tried was a member of the mob who helped in the actual breaking into the jail as well as lynched and shouting to the mob to come on.

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Lynchings-1931
& Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Indiana

3509

Lynching Suspect Is Arrested near Marion

Recorder
1-3-31

MARION, Ind., Jan. 2—Arnold Walter, 22 years old, named in an affidavit filed by James M. Ogden, State Attorney General, as a participant in the lynching of Shipp and Smith on the Grant County court house lawn here last August was arrested at his farm home near Maroin late Wednesday of last week. Walter was the sixth person arrested in connection with the double lynching.

LYNCH SUSPECT FREED BY GRANT COUNTY JURY

Recorder

Body Deliberates Case Thirty Minutes—Ogden Instructs Deputies To Bring Five Others To Trial.

1-10-31

(By Staff Correspondent)

MARION, Ind., Jan. 9th.—Robert Beshire, 43 years old Assyrian, an alleged participant in the lynching here last August of Shipp and Smith on the Grant County court house lawn was acquitted in circuit court Friday night of last week by a jury which deliberated only thirty minutes.

The Assyrian, who was arrested on information obtained by representatives of Atty.-Gen. James M. Ogden's office, was the first of six men charged with the lynching to go on trial.

Apparently fully aware of what the outcome would be, the crowds were not very much in evidence when the verdict was returned, but the court room was jammed with spectators throughout the taking of testimony.

That Beshire was tried in an autosphere that wreaked with a strong spirit of sympathy for the accused, was evidenced when, immediately after the verdict, county officials, detectives and citizens rushed to congratulate the foreigner suspect.

The concensus of union here prior to the trial was that the suspect would be freed.

Public sentiment in and around Marion and the county of Grant has been found to be definitely out of joint with the popular demand emancting from pro-justice circles for fair play in the double lynching case.

Many law abiding citizens, both colored and white are fully aware of the moral damage that will accrue to the state in general and the County of Grant in particular should wholesale a miscarriage of justice be allowed to bob up in the Shipp-Smith lynching case.

It is generally believed that Beshire's bacon was saved when the defense counsel succeeded in convincing the jury that suspect had been an onlooker at the lynching and that while the Assyrian was thus engaged he had been struck in the face by a bstander, when Beshire ventured the statement that, "I don't think they ought to enter the jail for fear of getting the wrong man. Among the state's witnesses called Friday morning were Deputy sheriff Wells and Police Captain Treuex. Wells and Treuex who were at the jail when the lynchers broke in, were unable to identify the suspect on trial.

Emory Applegate, a reporter for an Indianapolis daily paper, and an eye witness to the hanging followed. The reporter named Philip Boyd, 18 and Asa Davis, 45 as members of the mob. The latter two men who are facing lnching charges are now at liberty under $2,000 bond. Applegate was not questioned about Beshire, but was attacked on the witness stand during cross examination by Defense Atty. Graves, who accused Applegate of favoring the State's case in his newspaper article.

Others To Be Tried

In the meantime late reports have it to the effect that Beshire's acquittal will not halt trial of the five other suspects in the lynching last Aug. that rocked the very foundation of the state's reputation last August.

When informed of the verdict Attorney James M. Ogden expressed himself to the effect that he would instruct his deputies to proceed forth with steps to bring the other men to trial.

CLEARED OF LYNCHING.

Appeal
1-4-31
Memphis Tenn

Jury Frees Accused Member of Indiana [illegible]

MARION, Ind., Jan. 3—(UP)—A jury which deliberated only one hour here tonight found Robert Beshire, 45, not guilty of having participated in the lynching of two negroes last Aug. 7.

Beshire, first of several suspects in the lynching to be tried, is a native of Turkey.

The state used 17 witnesses, but only two testified that Beshire was a member of the mob which milled about the entrance to the Marion jail where the negroes were confined.

The two negroes, Tom Shipp and Abe Smith, were taken from the Grant County jail and hanged in the courthouse yard a few hours after they were said to have confessed their part in the murder of Claude Deeter and a criminal attack on his girl companion.

FREED IN LYNCHING AT MARION

Courier
1-10-31

Pittsburgh, Pa.

MARION, Ind., Jan. 8—Robert Beshire, 45, was acquitted of charges of taking part in the lynching of two Negro citizens last August 7, by a circuit court jury which deliberated [illegible] minutes.

Beshire was alleged by the state to have been a member of the mob which stormed the Grant County jail and hanged on the courthouse lawn two men accused of killing a Fairmount, Ind., youth and assaulting his girl companion. He admitted being at the jail, but denied he took part in the lynching.

Five other persons face similar charges. Beshire was the first to be tried.

FORT WAYNE, IND.
JOURNAL GAZETTE

JAN 4 - 1931

Marion Lynching Trial

The first of a half a dozen men charged with the crime of having participated in the lynching of two negroes in Marion, last August, has been acquitted by a jury in the circuit court of Grant county. This is not to be thought strange. The verdict of acquittal was given by a jury of twelve Grant county citizens.

It will be recalled that some weeks after the lynching of the negroes that wild night of mob rule in the city of Marion a Grant county grand jury investigated and reported it could find no evidence upon which to indict anybody. Then it was that James M. Ogden, attorney-general of Indiana, definitely took matters in hand and brought the six men under arrest and accusation into court by affidavit. The verdict just returned at Marion is the first fruits of the attorney-general's wholesome action.

Attorney-General Ogden, commenting on the verdict in this first trial, says the finding of the jury will have no effect to make an end of the remaining five cases. These, he says, will be vigorously prosecuted and it can be hoped so. There is no question about the rising of the mob, the assault on the jail, the failure of the sheriff to make a fight for protection of his prisoners, the seizure of the two colored wretches and the lynching of them from trees in the yard of the Grant county court house. Somebody committed this shocking crime. Attorney-General Ogden's investigations led to the men who have heen accused.

It will cost a great deal of money and entail much labor to go on with these lynching trials. And in the end it may and doubtless will be the sequel that no jury can be found to hold anybody guilty of the double murder in the shadow of the court house in which these trials must take place. But the state of Indiana cannot afford to default its duty in these cases. The law was foully outraged in that lynching. The state must do all it can do for vindication of the law which holds this commonwealth together and makes it a secure place in which to live.

This should be done notwithstanding the verdict in the case just disposed of and despite the likelihood that a similar verdict will be the result of the other trials.

TERRE HAUTE, IND
TRIBUNE

JAN 1 - 1931

CHANCE FOR 1931.

Optimistic observers who thought a few years ago that lynching was about to die out in the United States get a jolt in the 1930 figures on this American form of lawlessness. Twenty-five lynchings are recorded in the closing twelve months by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people in its annual summary of lynching. This compares with twelve in 1929, a jump of 100 per cent.

This increase is bad enough, but when it is compared with the figures for 25 or 30 years ago when lynchings ran as high as 255 in one year it is still possible to credit ourselves with some progress along the road away from lawlessness.

Georgia led in lynchings last year. As usual these incidents are not confined to the south. Two are reported from Marion, Ind.

The popular tradition that lynching is the south's only remedy for offenses against women is further repudiated by the 1930 figures. In only three of the cases were such assaults offered as an excuse.

"It is a depressing record," remarks the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "but there is hope in the long view of the problem. Better education and a slowly rising standard of public intelligence is pushing back these outbursts of sadistic lawlessness, in spite of discouraging figures for 1930."

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS

JAN 2 1931

STATE RESTS CASE IN MARION LYNCHINGS

Seventeen Witnesses Testify for Prosecution.

DEFENSE WILL BE BRIEF

[By a Staff Correspondent of The Indianapolis News]

MARION, Ind., January 2.—Completion of the trial of Robert Beshire on a charge of participating in the lynching of two colored men here August 7, was expected late today with the opening of the defense case this afternoon. The state closed its case shortly before noon after presenting seventeen witnesses.

Before resting the state proved by Herman Pontius, night watchman at an iron plant, that members of the mob had come to the plant and obtained sledge hammers and bars, which afterward were used to batter down the doors of the jail. The state also proved by Orville Wells, deputy sheriff, that warrants issued on October 15 for Charles Lennon and ——— Frame had not been served up to the present time, although search had been made for both these men.

Other witnesses examined today were Orville Wills, deputy sheriff; Charles Truax, captain of po'ice; Frank Parker, a patrolman, and Emory Applegate, a reporter. From the first three the state obtained testimony concerning details of the lynching of Abe Smith and Tom Shipp. None of the three mentioned the defendant.

Struck by Policeman.

In the examination of Applegate the state succeeded in getting into the record a statement from Applegate that on several occasions he had been told Beshire was struck by a policeman at the entrance of the jail when the policeman attempted to keep the rioters from entering the building.

E. H. Graves, attorney for Beshire, said he was undecided as to whether his client would take the witness stand, insomuch as Beshire has a limited knowledge of English.

The crowd at today's session was much smaller than heretofore. Deputies Earl Stroup and Merl Wall, who have been conducting the prosecution, said they would continue pressing trial of the other defendants whose names have been mentioned in the Beshire case.

The crime docket, however, provides for the trial Monday of Clayton Heavilin, charged with perjury in connection with the prosecution of Mrs. Emma Legos, widow of one of the victims of the bomb exploded here last winter. The court indicated the lynching trials would have to be set at a date following this prosecution.

TERRE HAUTE, IND
TRIBUNE

JAN 3 1931

MARION LYNCHING SUSPECT IS FREED

Jury Deliberates Only 30 Minutes to Reach Verdict of Acquittal —Officials Pleased.

MARION, Ind., Jan. 3.—Robert Beshire, 43 years old, on trial for the last four days for alleged connection with the lynching of two negroes here Aug. 7, was acquitted in circuit court last night by a jury which deliberated thirty minutes.

Beshire was the first of six men charged with the lynching to go on trial. He was arrested on information obtained by investigators sent to Marion by Attorney General James M. Ogden.

Beshire, an Assyrian, received the verdict unemotionally, although he smiled when county officials, detectives and citizens rushed to congratulate him. The court room was not crowded when the verdict was returned, although it had been jammed throughout the taking of testimony.

Onlooker, Says Defense.

The defense offered by Beshire's counsel indicated that he had been an onlooker at the lynching, and that he had been struck in the face by a bystander when he stated that he "didn't think they ought to enter the jail for fear of getting the wrong men." A physician's testimony showed that Beshire had received treatment for the injury suffered immediately after the lynching took place.

Deputy Attorneys General Merl Wall and Earl Stroup, who have presented the state's case against Beshire, prepared to return to Indianapolis immediately after the verdict and would not state whether they intended to call the remaining defendants to trial. Reports received here, however, indicated that Attorney General Ogden would ask immediate trials for the remaining defendants.

More Than One Ballot.

The jury which gave the verdict received the case at 4:45 o'clock in the afternoon, ate supper, then began deliberations. More than one ballot was taken but the talesmen refused to state how the voting stood on the first ballot.

E. H. Graves, defense counsel, spent almost one hour in closing argument.

In appeal for the acquittal of Beshire, Mr. Graves, a veteran criminal attorney, reviewed the evidence of both state and defense, and in closing said, "I sincerely believe it would be as great a crime to convict Robert Beshire as it was for the mob to place the rope around the necks of confessed murderers and rapists and hang them."

INDIANAPOLIS, IND
NEWS

JAN 1 1931

SCENES OF LYNCHING DESCRIBED AT TRIAL

Two Witnesses Identify Defendant as Mob Member.

JUDGE HITS QUIZ METHODS

[By a Staff Correspondent of The Indianapolis News]

MARION, Ind., January 1.—The dramatic story of how a group of not more than twenty-five unidentified men raided a supposedly mob-proof jail and hanged two colored men here the night of August 7 while thousands of citizens watched the proceedings was told in Grant circuit court yesterday afternoon. Robert Beshire, an Armenian, who has not obtained naturalization papers, faced a jury ob-

tained after more than two days of effort to defend himself against a charge of participating in the lynching of Abe Smith and Tom Shipp, who had been arrested for the murder of young Claude Deeter, of Fairmount, and an attack on Mary Ball, of Marion.

Beshire, identified by two state's witnesses as present at the attack on the jail, insists he was there early in the rioting as a spectator and that he was beaten when he asserted the mob should not enter the jail, as it might get the wrong men.

Under the questioning of Earl Stroup and Merle Wall, deputies of James M. Ogden, Indiana attorney-general, attaches of the Marion police department and county sheriff's office described the scenes in and about the jail and the Courthouse lawn. O. H. Stout, county coroner, testified as to fatal effect of the treatment administered to Shipp and Smith by the mob, and Dryden S. Brannon, newspaper man, recounted the night of excitement.

Judge Scores Repetition.

These witnesses brought Beshire to within fifteen feet of the jail entrance when men with bars and sledges were battering away the iron doors. None, however, testified Beshire took part in the forcing of the entrance and none said he was present when the two men were taken from th custody of Jacob C. Campbell, sheriff.

Efforts of the prosecution to elicit from reluctant witnesses such testimony as would support the charges against Beshire twice were termed "the conducting of a court of inquiry" by Circuit Judge O. D. Clawson, who expressed his impatience with the repetition of the details of the lynching as they were told in similar vein by the several witnesses.

However, representatives of the attorney-general did succeed in establishing that there was a lynching in Marion and that several of the participants were identified and known to authorities who did not succeed in protecting their prisoners.

Campbell, sheriff here yesterday and former sheriff today, was the first witness and while his attorney hovered near to object to any questions that might prove embarrassing in later proceedings against him, Campbell established identity of the mob's victims and the date of the lynching.

Identified by Policeman.

He was followed by Garl Petersen, Marion policeman, who identified Beshire as one of a group of about twenty-five men who stood in front of the jail and howled for delivery of the two colored men. He also asserted he had faced the mob and with others had driven the leaders off when they called insults at Mrs. Campbell, wife of the sheriff. Later, he said, he was gassed by the tear gas thrown from the jail by the raiders and forced to take refuge in the jail until he recovered his sight.

Louis Lindenmuth, chief of Marion police, also told of recognizing Beshire in the crowd. Bert White, a deputy yesterday and sheriff today related how some one stuck a gun in his chest and demanded keys from him and how some one else knocked the gun aside and left him standing at the cell doors while rioters dragged the men from within. White asserted

he neither knew the two men nor could he describe them.

Brannon related how he had visited the jail and its environs several times in the rioting and had watched rioters slowly overcome resistance offered by authorities. He, too, testified there were two groups about the jail—one actively engaged in forcing an entrance and a much larger group standing by and creating the noise and confusion. The greater number of the spectators he said stayed in the street and alley near the jail while the active participants assembled on the jail lawn.

Deputies Overpowered.

John O. Fryer, a deputy sheriff, told how the mob overpowered unarmed deputies in the jail when it finally battered down the doors of the structure and sledged its way through the corridors to the prisoners.

Stout testified he had tested the temper of the crowd and determined it was unwise to remove the dead colored men in the night. He said his examination of their bodies the next day indicated both had died of strangulation and that he found no external injuries that would have been fatal.

When court adjourned to convene again Friday, the state had succeeded through testimony of two witnesses in showing Beshire was in the group that was active about the jail entrance and it also succeeded in getting into the record the identity of several others who also have been charged with participation in the lynching.

Petersen had named Charles Lennon, Asa Davis and Chester Pease as among the active rioters at the entrance and inside the jail. Brannon said he learned afterward that Lennon was the man he saw using an iron bar on the jail door and Fryer named Davis as one of the men who had entered the jail and forced the deputies to retreat to the third floor.

Fugitive Is South.

Lennon is a fugitive from justice, and agents of the attorney-general are hunting him with information that he recently was seen in Marion, and has been living in Galesburg, Ill. Pease and Davis are on bond awaiting trial on one of the affidavits which the attorney-general filed after a Grant county grand jury had failed to return any indictments.

E. H. Graves, attorney for Beshire, told the court his client was not intending to refute evidence that there had been a lynching, but that the defense contention was that Beshire was present as a spectator only, and was himself injured by the rioters.

NEW YORK WORLD

JAN 3 - 1931

FREED IN INDIANA LYNCHING

First of Six Accused Is Acquitted by Jury in 45 Minutes

MARION, Ind., Jan. 2 (A. P.)—Robert Beshire, forty-five, was acquitted tonight of charges of taking part in the lynching of two Negroes last Aug. 7, by a circuit court jury which deliberated 45 minutes.

Beshire was alleged by the state to have been a member of the mob which stormed the Grant County Jail and hanged on the courthouse lawn two Negroes accused of killing a Fairmount, Ind., youth and assaulting his girl companion. He admitted being at the jail, but denied he took part in the lynching.

Five other persons face similar charges. Beshire was the first to be tried.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND
STAR

JAN 4 1931

JUDGE GETS LYNCH NEGLECT CASE PLEA

MARION, Ind., Jan. 3.—(AP)—Arguments were presented to Judge O. D. Clawson today on the question of whether former Sheriff Jacob C. Campbell should be tried for his alleged neglect of duty when two Negroes were lynched here last August.

John R. Brown, attorney for Campbell, sought to convince the court that the charges made by Attorney General James M. Ogden should have been brought in the name of the state on relation of the attorney general.

Taken Under Advisement.

Judge Clawson took the arguments under advisement.

No date was set today for the trials of five men who are charged with having participated in the lynching. Robert Beshire was acquitted late yesterday.

TERRE HAUTE, IND.
TRIBUNE

JAN 2 1931

BESHIRE LYNCHING TRIAL IS RESUMED

MARION, Ind., Jan. 2—(AP)—The trial of Robert Beshire, charged with having participated in the lynching of two negroes here Aug. 7, was resumed in Grant circuit court today after a day's recess for New Year's.

When court adjourned Wednesday half a dozen witnesses had testified for the state, and Merl M. Wall and Earl Stroup, deputy attorneys general, expected to call a dozen more today.

Among witnesses who have testified, and probably will be recalled, is Bert White, who was installed yesterday as sheriff. He succeeds Jacob C. Campbell, against whom charges of neglect of duty were filed after the lynching.

Lynchings-1931
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Indiana

ACQUITTED IN INDIANA MOB TRIAL

Argus 3-6-31

Prosecution Fails as Second Man is Freed in Connection With Crime That Resulted in Deaths of Two Youths

[illegible], Ind.

MARION, Ind., Mar. 5—All hope of getting a conviction in the lynching of two colored youths at the County Court House here last August by a mob of several thousand white persons was given up when the second of seven alleged participants in the crime, Charles Lennon, was acquitted by a jury here Saturday.

Four other men are out on bond and a seventh is fugitive on charges similar to that which Lennon was acquitted. Court officials intimated that charges against those still facing trial would be dismissed.

Have Pictures Of Mob

The victims of the mob were Abraham Smith, 19 years old, and Thomas Shipp, 18. They were arrested as suspects in the killing of a white youth and an attack upon his girl companion. They were taken from their cells, brutally beaten, hanged from a tree and a bonfire [illegible] under them. Pictures of the [illegible]ts gloating over their prey [illegible]ken, but still the law was [illegible] to fasten the guilt onto any-

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DROP CHARGES IN THE MARION LYNCHING CASE

Recorder

Deputy Attorney's General Dismiss Affidavits Of Former Grant County Sheriff And Six Men In Famous Marion Lynch Case.

3-21-31

MARION, Ind., March 21.—Affidavits filed by the state against six men and Jacob C. Campbell, Grant county sheriff after the lynching of Abe Smith and Thomas Shipp, on the court house lawn here last August, were dismissed Friday of last week in Grant county circuit court upon written motion of Deputy Attorneys General Merle Wall and Earl Stroup.

Charges of participating in the lynching of the two youths after they were taken by the mob from the Grant county jail were dismissed against Chester Pease, Arnold Wallers, Phillip Boyd, Everett Clark, Asa Davis and another alleged lyncher, who is known only as Prame.

All but the latter have been arrested. Wallers has been held in jail since December 20.

The affidavit charging the sheriff with neglect of duty because Smith and Shipp were removed from the Grant county jail and strung up was also dismissed.

In their motion the Deputy Attorneys general said dismissal was made because, apparently, there was no likelihood of obtaining convictions.

Two men have been tried: Robert Beshire and Charles Lennon Both were acquitted.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

MAR 14 1931

MARION LYNCHING CASES DISMISSED

With 2 Suspected Leaders of Mob Acquitted State Gives Up.

[Special to The Indianapolis Star.]

MARION, Ind., March 13.—Judge O. D. Clawson of Grant Circuit court today sustained a motion by Prosecuting Attorney Harley Hardin and Deputy Attorneys General Merl M. Wall and Earl Stroup to dismiss the charges of lynching pending here against six Marion men.

The court also upheld the officials' motion to drop the charge of failure of official duty against former Sheriff Jacob C. Campbell.

Men against whom lynch charges were pending were Chester Pease, Phillip Boyd, Arnold Walters, Everett Clarke, Asa Davis and a man named Praim whose first name never has been learned. The dismissals were instituted by Attorney General James M. Ogden.

Two Acquitted.

Two men were tried and acquitted on the charges. Bob Beshire, poolroom owner, was acquitted first after a jury had deliberated thirty minutes; Charles Lennon was found not guilty recently after a jury had studied the case eighteen hours. A total of about two hundred and fifty special veniremen were subpenaed for both trials and the cost of the trials to Grant county has been estimated by officials at $5,000.

The lynching charges, as well as the charge against Campbell, grew out of the lynching last Aug. 7 of two Marion Negroes, Tom Shipp and Abe Smith. They were being held in jail after confessing the murder of Claude Deeter, 23, of Fairmount, and a criminal attack on Mary Ball, his sweetheart, who was with him.

Negro to Go on Trial.

Herbert Cameron, Negro, alleged companion of Shipp and Smith on the night of the murder, escaped the fury of the mob by convincing the leaders that he had been in jail fourteen days for train riding.

Cameron will be tried on a change of venue in Madison Circuit court April 23. He is charged with first degree murder, accessory before the fact, first degree criminal attack, robbery while armed and auto banditry.

STAR
TERRE HAUTE, IND.

MAR 14 1931

LAST OF MARION LYNCHING CHARGES ARE DISMISSED

MARION, Ind., March 13.—(AP)—The last chapter was written today in the investigation of a double lynching here last Aug. 7, when Judge O. D. Clawson dismissed charges of failure of official duty against former Sheriff Jacob C. Campbell and of participating in the hanging. Those affected by today's ruling besides Campbell were Chester Pease, Phillip Boyd, Arnold Walters, Everett Clarke, Asa Davis and a man named Praim whose first name never was learned and who never was arrested.

MARION, IND.
CHRONICLE

MAR 13 1931

STATE WITHDRAWS CHARGES AGAINST OFFICIAL, 6 OTHERS

Written motions to dismiss affidavits against six alleged members of the mob which lynched two colored youths here on the night of Aug. 7, 1930, and ex-Sheriff Jacob C. Campbell today were filed in the Grant circuit court.

Dismissal of the affidavits brings to an end efforts of Atty. Gen. James M. Ogden to convict members of the mob and the ex-sheriff, who was charged with neglect of his official duties.

Four of the defendants are at liberty under bond. A fifth is being held in jail and the sixth, whose Christian name was unknown, never has been apprehended.

The motions to dismiss were signed by Ogden, his deputies, Merl Wall and Earl Stroup, who prosecuted the two cases here, and Prosecutor Harley Hardin. The reason for dismissal as set out in the motions was that "there is no likelihood of conviction."

The defendants against whom charges were pending are Chester Pease, Arnold Wallers, Phillip Boyd, Everett Clark, Asa Davis and —— Praim. Wallers has been held in jail since his arrest Dec. 20. Praim has never been arrested.

Dismissal of the affidavits was predicted here following the acquittal of Charles Lennon, second of the lynching defendants to be placed on trial. The attorneys declared that they had built their strongest case against Lennon but the jury, after deliberating 18 hours, returned a verdict of not guilty. Robert Beshire, first lynching suspect to face trial, also was acquitted by a jury verdict

The defendants were the first ever placed on trial in Indiana on a charge of lynching.

Wall and Stroup, who filed the motions to dismiss here, refused to make any statement in connection with their action. "The motions are self explanatory," they both said.

The affidavits were filed by the attorney general after a grand jury failed to return indictments against any of the lynching suspects. The jury also returned a report in which they exonerated ex-Sheriff Campbell.

Trial of the two defendants is believed to have cost Grant county more than $5,000 chiefly through inability to obtain a jury without the drawing of special venires.

The remaining case growing out of the lynching is the trial on April 23 of Herbert Cameron, 18, Marion, colored, who is alleged to have participated in the murder of Claude Deeter and the attack on his girl companion. The Cameron case was venued to Madison county and Judge Carl F. Morrow has ordered the case to trial after overruling a motion to quash the indictment charging Cameron with first degree murder and accessory before the fact.

The two colored youths, Abe Smith and Tom Shipp, were taken from the jail and hanged to a tree in the courthouse yard. They are said to have admitted their part in the murder and criminal attack to police and sheriff officials, who placed them under arrest the preceding night.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

JUN 30 1931

LYNCHING DODGER PLACED ON TRIAL

Insanity to Be Defense of Cameron in Murder Hearing—Alienists Named.

[*Special to The Indianapolis Star.*]

ANDERSON, Ind., June 29.—Trial of Herbert Cameron, 18 years old, Marion Negro, facing a charge of first degree murder for complicity in killing Claude Decter of Fairmount, near Marion Aug. 6, 1930, started in Madison Circuit court today with examination of prospective jurors and appointment of two physicians as alienists to examine the defendant. The defense attorneys said that efforts will be made to save Cameron from severe penalty on grounds that he is insane, and asked court to name physicians to examine him for indications of insanity. Judge Carl Morrow named Dr. F. C. Guthrie, Anderson, and Dr. Murray DeArmond, Indianapolis, as the medical experts. They will make a report on the defendant's mentality at the close of the trial.

Death Opinions Questioned.

Thirty-four prospective jurors are on special venire called for the murder trial. The state passed eleven of the jurors early today, but they were not acceptable to defense. Attorneys for both state and defense are questioning the jurors on their attitude towards the death penalty in case of conviction. The indictment charging Cameron with murder grows out of the slaying of Deeter, 24 years old and a criminal attack on his fiancee, Mary Ball. Tom Shipp and Abe Smith, young Negroes, alleged to have been involved with Cameron in the slaying and attack were lynched by a mob at Marion on the night of Aug. 7, but Cameron evaded death through intervention of a man with the mob.

Lynchings-1931 – Indiana. 3511

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

MARION, IND.
CHRONICLE

FEB 23 1931

9 SEATED AS JUROR TO DECI FATE LYNCHING

Nine jurors had tentatively been accepted by the state and defense when court convened this afternoon for thetrial of Charles Lennon, former taxi driver, who is charged with having participated in the lynching of two colored youths here on the night of Aug. 7, 1930. Questioning of the jurors proceeded rapidly during the morning session of court and it was generalily believed that the jury would be selected late today or Tuesday.

Contrasted with the first lynching trial, there was only a small crowd in the courtroom. The section of the courtroom used by attorneys and witnesses and the court reporter was roped off to prevent the crowd from interfering with progress of the trial.

Ernest Ferree, who with Roy Dempsey has charge of Lennon's defense examined the jurors during the moring session during which eight jurors were excused. Merl Wall, deputy attorney general, is conducting the examination of the jury for the state. Wall is being assisted by Earl Stroup, also a deputy attorney general, and prosecutor Harley Hardin.

Lennon was brought to the courtroom in custody of Deputy Sheriff C. L. Luedecker. His wife was seated near him in the rear of the table being used by his attorneys. He appeared to be interested in the procedings and often leaned forward to look at jurors, who were being examined. He has been held in jail in default of bond since his arrest.

Judge O. D. Clawson, who is presiding at the trial, often questioned jurors, who apparently did not understand the questions being asked them or who appeared to have a desire to evade serving on the jury.

One juror was excused by agreement after he convinced the court and attorneys that he was unable to hear the questions being put to him.

Neither side had used any of the 20 preemptory challenges which were fixed by the court. The eight jurors excused during the morning session were excused for cause after stating that they had opinions on the matter or were opposed to capital punishment.

Although there was a small crowd in the courtroom during the morning session, court attaches and others, who were following the case declared that they believed that the fate of the cases against other lynching suspects would rest on the outcome of the case against Lennon. Robert Beshire, first of the lynching suspects to be placed on trial was acquitted by a jury which heard evidence in the case.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

FEB 27 1931

MARION MOB LYNCHING CASE GOES TO JURY

Death Penalty Waived in Final Arguments of Lennon Trial.

By United Press

MARION, Ind., Feb. 27.—Fate of Charles Lennon, on trial in connection with the lynching of two Negroes here last Aug. 7, was placed in the hands of a Grant circuit court jury shortly before noon today.

The death penalty was waived by Merle N. Wall, deputy attorney-general, in his closing arguments for the state, in which he asked conviction under a statute providing a penalty of two to twenty-one years. The defense waived closing arguments.

In his argument, Wall pointed out that Lennon had been identified positively by six witnessses as a member of the mob which removed the Negroes from the jail and hanged them in the courthouse yard, and that two witnesses testified they heard him urging mob leaders to break down the jail doors.

Varied Stories Told

Conflicting testimony was given by defense witnesses Thursday. Lennon was described as a member of the crowd which was pushed into a position near the entrance of the jail as a citizen who had urged the mob to desist from trying to force an entrance to the jail. Witnesses also testified that he left the vicinity of the jail a few minutes after the mob obtained custody of the Negroes, and that he did not participate in the hangings.

Defense witnesses included the defendant's wife, Mrs. Mary Lennon; his brother-in-law, Paul Thompson, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Ella Thompson.

Deny Part in Lynching

Paul Riddle another defense witness, and Thompson testified that they were with Lennon throughout the early part of the evening and he did not actively participate in the mob. Their stories were only shaken in minor details by Merl Wall and Earl Stroup, deputy attorneys-general in charge of the prosecution.

The courtroom has remained crowded throughout the trial of the case. Many Negroes have attended.

Other Cases in Balance

Failure to convict Lennon, it is expected, would result in dismissal of affidavits, all filed by Attorney General James M. Ogden, against six other defendants, including former Sheriff Jacob Campbell, who is charged with neglect of his official duties as a result of the lynching. The first trial ended in acquittal of Robert Beshire.

Details of the treatment received by the two Negroes after the mob obtained custody of them and before they were hanged, were again related from the stand by witneses for the state. Many of those witnesses, chiefly police officers and sheriff officials, who were on duty at the jail, were unable to identify Lennon as a member of the mob. Those who did declared that he was more than fifteen or twenty feet from the jail entrance.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS

FEB 23 1931

SECOND TRIAL OPENS IN MARION LYNCHING

Cab Driver Charged With Being One of Mob Leaders.

COURTROOM IS ROPED OFF

[Special to The Indianapolis News]

MARION, Ind., February 23.—The state's second effort to obtain a conviction as the result of mob action in which two colored youths were lynched on the Courthouse lawn here, August 7, 1930, was made at the opening of the trial of Charles Lennon, age thirty, taxicab driver, today in Grant circuit court.

A week has been set aside for Lennon's trial, and it was not expected that a jury would be completed until tomorrow. A special venire of fifty appeared in addition to the regular panel of eighteen.

Three persons were excused early, one on the ground of deafness and two when they said they were opposed to capital punishment. The same line of questioning is bein followed as that of the previous lynching trial.

Spurred by the thought that on the outcome of the case against Lennon rests the fate of charges against others suggested in the lynching, deputy attorneys-general in charge of the prosecution have made every effort to present an ironclad case. Lennon is charged with being one of the leaders of the mob which broke into the Grant County Jail and lynched Abe Smith and Tom Shipp.

Attorneys for Lennon will attempt to show he was out of the city the night of the lynching. Merle Wall and Earl Stroup, who had charge of the prosecution of the case against Robert Beshire, are conducting the state's case. Roy Dempsey, Marion, is representing Lennon. Beshire was acquitted in the first trial. Stroup remarked after that trial that he would seek the death penalty for Lennon, but since has not commented on this subject.

Policemen, attaches of the sheriff's office and newspaper men who were in the vicinity of the jail the night of the lynching, have been subpenaed by the state. The courtroom was crowded as the trial opened and has been roped off. Judge O. D. Clawson is presiding.

STAR
TERRE HAUTE, IND

FEB 24 1931

SECOND TRIAL FOR LYNCHING STARTED

MARION, Ind., Feb. 23.—(AP)—A second special venire of 50 talesmen was ordered drawn tonight after 43 men had been questioned and only 11 tentatively accepted for jury service by the defense and prosecution in the trial of Charles Lennon on charges of having participated in the lynching of two Negroes here last Aug. 7.

Lennon, 30 years old and a former Marion taxi cab driver, is the second man to face trial in connection with the lynching. Robert Beshire was acquitted of a similar charge recently. Much of the evidence against Lennon was brought out in Beshire's hearing.

Questioning of prospective jurors continued throughout the day along the same lines as in the previous trial, the state objecting to any persons expressing aversion to the death penalty. Two prospective jurors were excused when they told the court they were opposed to mob violence while others were ordered excused by Judge O. D. Clawson when it became apparent they were attempting to evade jury service.

At the end of the day's session the state had used seven peremptory challenges and the defense three. The state is represented by Deputy Attorneys-General Merl M. Wall and Earl B. Stroup and Prosecutor Harley Hardin of Grant County.

Lennon was the last of seven suspects to be arrested in connection with the case. The others are under bond awaiting tria[illegible] nly a small crowd was in [illegible] room today, contrasting [illegible] overflow of spectators [illegible] Beshire trial.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

FEB 26 1931

LYNCH TRIAL IDENTIFICATION NEARLY FAILURE

State Witnesses Unable to Connect Lennon With Crime.

By Times Special

MARION, Ind., Feb. 26.—Almost complete failure of witnesses to identify Charles Lennon as a member of a mob which lynched two Negroes here Aug. 7, after removing them from the Grant county jail, marked today's session of his trial.

Of about twelve witnesses questioned so far by the prosecution only two or three have given testimony connecting Lennon with the mob.

Among those identifying him was Jacob Campbell, sheriff at the time the Negroes were arrested on charges of killing a white man and attacking his girl companion.

The state is expected to complete its evidence in time for the defense to open its testimony today. It is expected the case will go to the jury Friday.

69 QUESTIONED IN LYNCH CASE

Counsel for the state and defendant today continued their effort to select a jury for the trial of Charles Lennon, who is charged with having participated in the lynching of two colored youths here on the night of August 7, 1930.

A total of 69 talesmen had been examined when court adjourned for the noon recess. A majority of the prospective jurors disqualified themselves apparently through a desire to evade service on the jury.

The crowd which filled all of the seats in the courtroom continued to follow progress of the trial although they were forced to listen to a montonous repitition of the same questions by attorneys who were examining the talesmen.

The defendant's wife came to the courtroom shortly after trial of the case was started again this morning and took a seat near her husband in the rear of the table used for his attorneys.

The state had used eight and the defense four of the 20 peremptory challenges which they were allowed by the court in the examination of the 69 talesmen.

Judge O. D. Clawson, who is presiding at the trial, showed his displeasure on several occasions at the efforts of several prospective jurors to disqualify themselves. On one occasion, during the examination of a prominent manufacturer, the court ordered the juror excused for cause and informed the attorneys that it would be a waste of time to question him further.

The defense hurriedly excused two jurors, Albert Curless and William K. Hoggatt, who declared that they were opposed to all forms of mob rule.

Eight of the members of the second special venire of 50 names which was ordered drawn late Monday, were used during the morning session. While the examination of jurors moved slowly, attorneys declared that they believed that a jury would be selected late today.

MARION, IND.
CHRONICLE

MAR 1 1931

LYNCHING SUSPECT IS FREED

Jurors Return "Not Guilty" Verdict Saturday; Judge Refuses to Discharge Panel on Plea.

DEBATE 21 HOURS

Future Action on Mob Cases Still Pending Is Regarded as Doubtful; 10 Witnesses Heard.

Charles Lennon, 30, alleged member of a mob which lynched two colored youths on the night of Aug. 7, 1930, Saturday was acquitted by a jury in the Grant circuit court which had deliberated his fate for 21 hours The acquittal marks the second failure of attorneys representing the state of Indiana to successfully prosecute an alleged member of the mob.

It was reliably reported that the jurors stood 11 to 1 for acquittal on all except one or two of the ballots on which the vote was 10 to 2 for acquittal.

There was only a small crowd in the courtroom when the verdict was read shortly after 9 a. m. Saturday and Judge O. D. Clawson quickly rapped for order when the spectators began to cheer.

It was a much more orderly crowd than had loitered in the courtroom and corridors while the jury was deliberating the defendant's fate Friday night and which resulted in special police officers and sheriff officials being stationed at points of advantage to prevent a disturbance.

Jurors Are Thanked

Lennon shook hands and thanked each of the jurors as they filed out of the jury box.

The verdict came as a surprise as a few minutes earlier word had been sent to the court that the jurors desired him to read the instructions again. Several minutes elapsed before the defendant and attorneys reached the courtroom and when the jury filed into the room, the court learned that they had reached a verdict.

Judge Clawson thanked the jurors for their services in this case and declared that he had found it necessary to order them to continue their deliberations. (The jurors had asked to be discharged last night but the court refused to grant the request.) "I felt that the case was too important to permit it to go by without a verdict being reached," the court said.

Merl Wall, deputy attorney general, who with Earl Stroup had charge of the prosecution of the case, refused to make any statement on the verdict. James M. Ogden, attorney general, who filed the affidavits against five other defendants and ex-Sheriff, Jacob C. Campbell, also refused to state if he was considering further prosecution.

May Drop Others

In view of the verdict and the unofficial report of the vote on oth-

(Continued From Page One)

ballots it is generally believed that the entire matter probably will be dropped within a few weeks. The state was conceded to have it's strongest case against Lennon and the failure of the jury to return a verdict of guilty is generally regarded as an expression of the sentiment of the citizens of the county.

The two cases have cost the county more than $3,000 in jury and other fees. With other expense including the grand jury investngation it is believed that the total cost of the cases has been more than $5,000.

The case was given to the jury at 11:40 a. m. Friday after Roy Dempsey and Ernest Ferree, attorneys for the defendant had waived the right to submit closing arguments.

The affidavit against Lennon was filed Jan. 14, 1931, when he was taken into custody by Sgt. Brandon and Motor Patrolman Roy Cox. He has been held in jail in default of bond since that date. He was confined for several weeks in the Huntington county jail, but was returned here one week ago.

Examine 139 Talesmen

Trial of the case started Monday but two and one-half days were spent in the examination of 139 talesmen and the selection of the jury. The state placed six witnesses on the stand, who declared that they had seen Lennon in the mob which was milling around the jail steps.

The defense placed four witnesses on the stand, who testified that Lennon was in the vicinity of the jail but only as an innocent onlooker and that he left the jail shortly after the first colored youth was brought out.

Cordon of Officers Guards Marion Courthouse as Mob Jurors Debate Fate of Suspect; Rough Throng Near

[Special to The Indianapolis Star.]

MARION, Ind., Feb. 27. — The Grant Circuit court room was guarded by a cordon of fifteen city patrolmen, sheriffs and deputies and detectives tonight as a crowd waited about the corridors for a verdict to be returned in the trial of Charles Lennon, charged with lynching.

Late tonight the jury reported to Judge O. D. Clawson that they were unable to agree, but the judge returned them to their deliberations.

At midnight the jury was locked up for the night to continue its deliberations. Indications pointed to a report of disagreement.

Hallways and corridors about the Circuit and Superior court rooms were crowded with roughly dressed men, all thought to be friends of Lennon. They talked in low tones among themselves, but grew silent when strangers approached.

Sheriff Bert White said he had not heard any open threats of rioting, but wanted "to be prepared." It became known late tonight that he had requested reserves of police officers from surrounding cities and these forces were rushed here.

Waive Closing Argument.

The case was given to th[illegible] shortly before the noon recess t[illegible] after defense counsel had waived [illegible] right to make a closing argumen[illegible] The jurors began their deliberations at 12:40 o'clock. About 2 o'clock one of the talesman complained of illness and it was thought for a time their deliberation would have to be postponed for the afternoon. This was averted when the juror was provided with medicine.

The selection of jurors for the trial began Monday morning, and 139 men from three special venires of fifty each were examined before twelve men were decided upon Wednesday afternoon. The first evidence was presented late Wednesday and after that the trial proceeded rapidly. The state rested shortly after noon yesterday and the defense was completed late yesterday, when court adjourned. This morning was taken up with argument by the state and the court's leng[illegible]uctions to the jury.

Lennon was the second man to be tried as the outgrowth of the lynching of Tom Shipp and Abe Smith, Negroes, here Aug. 7. Charges were filed by Attorney General James M. Ogden, against eight men, one of whom never has been apprehended.

Robert Beshire, poolroom owner, and first man to be tried, was acquitted after the jury had been out twenty-five minutes.

Former Sheriff Jacob C. Campbell, facing a charge of neglect of official duty filed by Ogden as a result of the lynching, will probably be tried during the next term of court. He testified in the present trial that Lennon was in the forefront of the lynching mob.

TERRE HAUTE, IND.
TRIBUNE

FEB 27 1931

OFFERS ALIBI IN MARION MOB TRIAL

Defendant Makes Effort to Show He was Not At Scene of Negroes' Lynching Last August.

MARION, Ind., Feb. 27.—(AP)—Attorneys defending Charles Lennon in his trial on charges of participation in the lynching of two negroes here last Aug. [illegible] continued efforts to prove their client was not at the scene of the actual hanging on the ourt house lawn.

Lennon's wife, his brother-in-law, aul Thompson, and Paul Riddle testified yesterday they were with the defendant on the night of the lynching and left the mob with him before the two negroes were dragged from the county jail.

Drysdale Brannon, newspaperman; Billy Connors, theater manager; Lewis Lindenmuth, Marion chief of police, and Patrolman Carl Peterson were chief prosecution witnesses yesterday. All four identified Lennon as having been active 'n the mob, but declared they could not say definitely he was implicated in the actual hanging. Peterson was questioned at length and said he saw Lennon inside the jail shouting encouragement to the mob members.

It was believed presentation of evidence would be completed and the case given to the jury today.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Maryland

3514

N.Y. Reds Jeer Maryland's Gov. Kept at Home by Lynching Probe

(Special to the AFRO)

NEW YORK—The one great repercussion to the lynching of an obscure Maryland black two weeks ago was manifested here last Saturday afternoon in mid-town of the metropolis of the Western Hemisphere, when the demonstrating Reds made the highly organized New York police "see plenty red."

It was all because of the luncheon address that the Democratic governor of the "lynching-Maryland Free State" was scheduled to deliver before the National Republican Club in its West 40th Street home on "The Forces which menace the Constitution."

Afro-American

One of these forces so menaced the Maryland constitution that Gov. Ritchie couldn't leave home, because he had to remain and keep the barn door closed, "after the Eastern Shore horse had been stolen," the Communists subsequently shouted.

Major Gen. Harbord, head of the Radio Corporation and the Republican Club president, was reading the Maryland Governor's telegram as the horde of jeering, shouting, hooting, placard-toting Reds marched by the building, herded by the over-anxious cops, in a demonstration against the "liberal governor of a state which tolerates lynching!"

12-19-31

Among the placarded slogans were: "Down with lynching, jim-crowing, and discrimination"; "For the right of the Negro majorities to rule themselves"; "Release the nine Scottsboro Boys!"

Baltimore, Md.

Gov. Ritchie wired that he had not allowed anything to prevent his addressing the National Republican Club as scheduled speaker "except a serious condition which requires my personal presence in this State."

The Communists knew not of his absence, but that did not help the police any in herding them.

Among other things, the Governor's telegram said:

"The forces which menace the Constitution are the forces which menace all those governmental ideals which have made us a great nation and which have been tested in the school of experience.

"Nothing could so chill our national spirit or retard our returning prosperity or the solution of our political problems as to have the leaders of our people or the growing youth of our land lose faith in American institutions and the American governmental system, or fail to realize that the revolutionary ideas prevalent in some countries abroad and advocated to an extent here are wholly foreign to the genius of the American people.

"Our form of government is the growth of long years of colonial democracy striving to become a nation. Its strength lies in the fact that it gives expression to the traditions, ideals and free spirit that animated our forefathers in their century old efforts for self government."

Maryland's mobs and lynchers certainly put a heavy strain on 50 New York patrolmen, mounted cops, and 900 reserves, commanded by an inspector, a captain and five sergeants, to curb the aroused Communists assembled in mid-Manhattan to jeer him—though he wasn't there.

One of the luncheon speakers, Assistant U. S. Attorney General Seth W. Richardson, up from Washington for the occasion, didn't seem to be in accord with the Maryland Governor. Mr. Richardson asserted that anarchistic and communistic doctrines presented no more menace in this country today than they had in past years. The real menace to the country, he declared, was in attempts to nullify the Constitution.

Having had their say and done their parading, the Reds dispersed in front of the public library, gloating over their success in forcing out more cops to herd them than are in Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia, combined.

LYNCHING PROBE PUSHED

Commercial Appeal

Maryland Puts Whole Power of State Behind Prosecutor

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 6.—(AP)—Maryland officials today reached out to punish all persons responsible for the lynching here Friday evening of Matthew Williams, negro, a few hours after he killed a lumberman who had given him employment.

Attorney General William Preston Lane, Jr., assured by Governor Ritchie that the whole power of the state was at his disposal, declined to divulge his plans to bring to justice, not only the leaders of the mob but all who participated in any way in the orgy.

Memphis, Tenn.

At the same time preparations for the trial at Cambridge Tuesday of Yuel Lee, negro, accused of killing four people in Worcester County were abruptly halted as the judges here acceded to a defense plea and sent the records of the case to the court of appeals for review. The only question to decide, it was said, is wether the judges here were within legal bounds in refusing to grant a change of venue requested by defense counsel.

Mencken To Be Called In Probe Of Lynching

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

SALISBURY, MD., Dec. 19.—(AP)—W. Arthur Kennerly, foreman of the coroner's jury investigating the lynching two weeks ago of Mack William, negro slayer, said today he would summon H. L. Mencken, and members of the editorial staffs of The Baltimore Sun and Evening Sun to testify at the inquest.

12-20-31

Kennerly, former mayor of Salisbury, announced his intention of calling the newspaper writers after a conference with State's Atty. Levin C. Bailey, who, with Atty. Gen. W. Preston Lane, Jr., have been investigating the lynching. No date for the inquest has been set.

Kennerly reached his decision, he said, because of articles directed at the Eastern shore of Maryland by Mencken, critic, caustic commentator and publisher of The American Mercury, in which it was declared the mob leaders were known but no action taken against them.

Mencken's article appeared in The Evening Sun, of which he is an associate editor.

RITCHIE AROUSED BY MARYLAND LYNCHING; ORDERS AN INQUIRY

Chicago

Tribune

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 5.—[Special.]—Gov. Albert Ritchie on his arrival from New York today immediately went into conference with Attorney General William Lane and later ordered a sweeping investigation of the lynching last night at Salisbury, on the eastern shore, of Matthew Williams, Negro murderer, by a mob of 2,500, including many women.

12/6/31

State's Attorney Levin Bailey of Wichomico county declared there would be no delay in prosecuting leaders of the mob who could be identified. Meanwhile Mayor Wade Insley of Salisbury has demanded explanation from the police of their failure to act.

MENCKEN MAY APPEAR AT LYNCHING INQUEST

Constitution

12-20-31

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 19.—(AP) W. Arthur Kennerly, foreman of the coroner's jury investigating the lynching two weeks ago of Mack Williams, negro slayer, said today he would summon H. L. Mencken, and members of the editorial staffs of the Baltimore Sun and Evening Sun to testify at the inquest.

Atlanta

Kennerly, former mayor of Salisbury, announced his intention of calling the newspaper writers after a conference with State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey, who, with Attorney General W. Preston Lane Jr., have been investigating the lynching. No date for the inquest has been set.

Ritchie Studies Reports On Salisbury Lynching

Governor Ritchie announced last night that he had canceled a speaking engagement for today in New York before the National Republican Club. He said the press of official business made it impossible for him to fulfill the engagement.

The Governor returned to Maryland Thursday after a four-day visit to Chicago and began work immediately on reports on the investigation of the Salisbury lynching.

William Preston Lane, Jr., Attorney-General, is participating in the investigation at the request of the Governor.

12/13/31

Lynchings - 1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Maryland

3515

AMERICAN
BALTIMORE, MD

DEC 6 1931

Ritchie Orders Vigorous Prosecution of Mob That Lynched Salisbury Killer

"Use Every Agency Of State," He Commands

LANE IN QUIZ

Attorney General Is Given Blanket Authority

Governor Ritchie last night ordered "every agency the State can supply" to be used in a "vigorous prosecution" of the mobsmen who lynched Matthew Williams, negro murderer, in Salisbury Friday night.

Before leaving for Chicago late in the day the Governor directed Attorney General W. Preston Lane, an Army major during the World War, to give all possible aid in the investigation designed to round up the mob and gave him blanket authority to act during the Governor's absence.

BEGINS INVESTIGATION.

Last night Mr. Lane said that he had started his investigation, but declined to say whether or not he personally would go to the Eastern Shore immediately.

He said:

"I will carry out the Governor's orders explicitly."

The blanket orders given Mr. Lane are understood to mean that he can, if necessary, call upon the armed forces of the State its police and legal machinery, in carrying out his instructions.

WANTS LEE TRIED.

At the same time the Governor called for a speedy trial of Yuel Lee, charged with murdering a family of four near Berlin, Md. He declared that if Lee is brought to trial in Cambridge, ample protection will be given him "whatever the opinion the county authorities now hold."

State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey, Wicomico county, stated late yesterday that so far he has been unable to learn the identity of any member of the mob. He said he is prepared to prosecute any whose identity is disclosed.

RITCHIE AROUSED.

In his statement, Governor Ritchie characterized the lynching of Williams, a few hours after he had shot and killed Daniel J. Elliott, sixty-seven, a wealthy lumberman, as something which "must bring a blush of shame to every law-abiding Marylander."

He added:

"Under the authority conferred on me by the Constitution, I have directed the Attorney General to co-operate with the State's Attorney of Wicomico county in the vigorous prosecution of the perpetrators of this crime."

APPEAL CONSIDERED.

The appeal of Bernard Ades, attorney for Lee, for a removal of the case from the Eastern Shore, and his request that a transcript of the record in the case be sent to the Court of Appeals, was considered yesterday by the three judges of the First Judicial District.

They were Judges Joseph E. Bailey, Robert Duer and Chief Judge John R. Pattison. At the conclusion of the discussion, which was held in Cambridge, it was decided that the record should be sent to the Court of Appeals as soon as it could be prepared. Judge Pattison said:

"This, of course, means that Lee cannot be brought to trial Tuesday as planned."

MEETS IN JANUARY.

The Court of Appeals does not meet in regular session again until January 11, but it was pointed out that a special session may be called at any time by the Chief Judge. In view of attitude taken by Governor Ritchie, this action is anticipated in legal circles.

After declaring he had every confidence in Mr. Bailey, the Governor added:

"In the face of this outrage, which is of State-wide importance, it is my duty to give all the assistance within my power."

The Governor then referred to the effect that this case might have on the trial of Yuel Lee.

RECEIVED LETTERS.

He stated that he had received letters from local authorities, assuring him that, in their opinion, the State militia will not be needed either for the protection of Lee or his attorney.

These letters were written prior to the lynchings, and the Governor said:

"In view of the lynching, I have decided that whatever may be the opinions which local authorities now hold, it is my duty as Governor of the State to take the steps which I consider necessary to assure the protection of both Lee and his attorney.

MAY CALL TROOPS.

While refusing to state what these steps might be, it was implied that he referred to sending National Guardsmen to the trial. In an informal comment the Governor said:

"There is little doubt in my mind that the names of the mob members can and will be learned. After that it is up to the grand jury."

Last night six special policemen were on duty in Salisbury. The usual Saturday night crowd surged through the streets but there was no sign of disorder.

NEGROES ABSENT.

No negroes were seen in the downtown area. They remained in the colored section across the Wicomico river, on orders issued by the State's Attorney. The lynching was still the principal topic of conversation where two or more citizens gathered.

At a conference yesterday in the Hotel Belvedere with Mr. Lane and other officials, Governor Ritchie declared in effect that "lynch law" would not be tolerated in the State and that the mobsters would not go unpunished.

Deputy Sheriff John Parks and Chief of Police N. H. Holland, who talked with members of the mob at the front door of the hospital while other members entered the side door, said that they did not know the names of any of the lynchers. However, both men said that they would be able to identify the men who talked with them, if they saw them again.

Prominent residents of Salisbury declared the affair was the outcome of a meeting staged by Baltimore representatives of the Labor Defense League Thursday night, to protest the trial of Yuel Lee in Cambridge.

BLAMED ON LEAGUE.

Mr. Bailey said:

"This affair, which is a blot on the community, would never have happened if it had not been for the interference in the Lee case of an agency in Baltimore known as the International Labor Defense League.

"If the man accused of the murder of four people had gone on trial in the regular manner, this would not have happened, and if it had the persons responsible for what occurred last night would have allowed the law to take its regular course."

The statement of State's Attorney Godfrey Child of Wicomico county that "if the International Labor Defense League did not keep out of the Eastern Shore something might happen," called for a hot reply last night by officers of the league.

SENDS TELEGRAM.

In a wire addressed to Mr. Child [illegible] at Pocomoke City, the league said:

"Your threats of further violence in your circuit will not prevent the International Labor Defense from protecting workers against legal lynchings by you and your courts. Eastern Shore mobs may dictate the orders of your courts, but we will still lead the workers in their organized fight against your terrorizing."

Late Friday night, after the ynching, Mr. Ades received the ollowing wire from Salisbury:

"Have a negro murderer here a little dilapidated. Interview guaranteed. Same treatment awaits others."

The wire was sent prepaid and signed "John J. Justice."

WROTE TO RITCHIE.

The League also wrote to Governor Ritchie yesteerday, demanding that any investigating committee he appoints contain negro members of the International Labor Defense. The letter states:

"Any whitewashing ~~of~~ Eastern Shore officials in the lynching will be protested."

STREETS CLEARED.

State's Attorney Bailey ordered the streets of Salisbury kept clea of negroes last night to prevent an possible outbreak. He said:

"I have conferred with negro leaders and their employers, and have obtained their promise to do all in their power to keep the negroes in their own section across the river and to keep other negroes from driving into town.

"I have also instructed the police to break up any gathering of persons on the corners, and to keep everyone moving in an orderly manner through the streets."

The Wicomico river flows through Salisbury. The whites live on one side of the river, while the negro colony of about 1,500 is located on the other side. The bridges across the river were under heavy guard last night. The population of Salisbury is about 11,000

DENIES JURY SESSION.

Mr. Bailey denied that a special session of the Grand Jury would be held at this time to investigate the lynching. He said:

"I have questioned many prominent citizens and officials, and so far have been unable to find anyone who recognized a member of the mob. Until the coroner's jury returns a verdict there will be nothing to go before a special session of the Grand Jury with."

The coroner's jury, impaneled with special care at the direction of the State's Attorney, yesterday viewed the charred remains of the murderer where it rested in a negro undertaker's.

MEMBERS OF JURY.

The members of the jury are: W. Arthur Kennerly, foreman, an ex-mayor of Salisbury; D. Frank Holloway, an insurance broker; John H. Tomilson, retired business man and Republican leader; S. Irving Johnson, manager of a dry goods store; Wade H. Bedsworth, a retired business man; Virgil J. Wowing, an automobile salesman; Charles Hurtt, insurance; W. Gorman Hastings, a printer; Walter R. Disharoon, lumber dealer; Frank A. Mitchell, an auditor, and P. Mark Carey, an insurance broker.

NEW YORK TIMES

DEC 6 [illegible]

Orders Lynching Inquiry.

Special to The New York Times.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 5.—Governor Ritchie, on his arrival from New York today, conferred with Attorney General William Lane and later ordered a sweeping investigation of the lynching last night at Salisbury of Matthew Williams, Negro, by a mob

of 2,500, including many women.

An independent investigation is under way into conditions on the Eastern Shore growing out of violence laid to Negroes.

FAIRMONT, W. VA
TIMES

DEC 1 3 1931

Three Men Charged With Murder for Lynching Of Negroes at Lewisburg

Brothers of Quinwood, Home of Slain Constable Accused by Prosecutor

SPECIAL JURY IS BEING CONSIDERED

State Police Continuing Search for Others Who Helped Mob Killing

LEWISBURG, Dec. 12 (AP)—Three men were charged with murder here today for the lynching of two negroes taken from the Greenbrier County jail by a mob of 50 masked men Thursday. The men, Earl Legg, Pete Legg and Jack Legg, brothers of Quinwood, waived a preliminary hearing and were held without bond.

They were arrested by State Police a few hours after the mob took the negroes, Tom Jackson, 48, and George Banks, 26, from the jail, hanged them from the cross-arm of a telephone pole and riddled their bodies with bullets.

After several hours questioning by officers and James A. White, prosecuting attorney, the men were placed in jail where they were held until today on investigation charges. No evidence was presented when the men were arraigned before Justice of the Peace F. M. Arbuckle. White, however, after the formal charges of murder had been lodged by Sheriff John H. Bowling, said their arrests were based on discovery in their automobile, stalled near the lynching site, of a shotgun and a number of shells similar in type to some found beneath the telephone pole.

A decision upon possibilities of calling a special grand jury to act in the lyinching case has not yet been reached, White said, pointing out that the next regular term of Greenbrier County circuit court will open in January and a grand jury probably will be in session then. Meanwhile, he said, State Police, county officers and representatives of his office will continue their efforts to identify and take into custody other members of the mob, all of whom were masked and armed.

White previously had promised the "fullest investigation" of the lynchings which occurred three weeks after the negroes were arrested charged with the slaying of Constable Joseph H. Myles and Jack Brown, both of Quinwood, when the officer ana his companion endeavored to quiet revelry at a negro dance at Leslie, near Rainelle. The negroes had been indicted by a special grand jury but upon motion of defense counsel, who sought time to prepare evidence, their trial had been continued until the January term of court.

Threats of violence were made against the negroes at the time of their arrest but officers thought that all possibilities of violence had disappeared until Thursday morning when under cover of darkness the mob stormed the jail. Careful preparations apparently had been made by the mob. They drove quietly into Lewisburg in about 15 automobiles from which license plates had been removed. Telephone wires serving the town had been cut.

At the jail they left their cars and swarmed into the kitchen in the jailor's living quarters through an unlocked door. There they forced Jailor Wallace Flint to open the cells and turn over the negroes. Clad only in underwear the negroes were hurried into waiting automobiles and to the crest of a small hill two miles west of Lewisburg.

Gathering around a short telephone pole, members of the mob tossed a tope over a cross arm and tied one negro to each end of the rope. Then stepping back, mob members began firing with rifles, shotguns and pistols at the negroes dangling from the rope, their feet almost touching the ground.

CHARLESTON, W. VA
MAIL

DEC 1 1 1931

CLEWS TO IDENTIFY THOSE IN LYNCHING MOB BEING SOUGHT

Officers Search Mountains in Greenbrier County for Evidence

THREE UNDER ARREST

Brothers, of Quinwood, are Still Held in Jail

MAY ASK GRAND JURY

Prosecutor at Lewisburg is Considering Action

LEWISBURG, Dec. 11 (AP).—The mountains of Greenbrier county were searched today by state and county officers seeking evidence as to the identity of the members of the mob that lynched two Negro prisoners here yesterday after storming the Greenbrier county jail.

The officers hoped to find some weapons that may have been discarded by the mob after the two Negroes, Tom Jackson, 48 years old, and George Banks, 26 years old, were hanged from the cross arm of a telephone pole and their bodies riddled with bullets.

There was a possibility, officers believed, that any weapons found might be identified by peculiarities shown on empty shells among the many picked up at the scene of the lynching.

The officers also kept a sharp lookout for automobiles which bore evidence of having been driven yesterday without license plates over the sluchy, muddy roads that tinted backs of all cars a uniform brown.

Possibilities of a special grand jury investigation were seen by Prosecuting Attorney James A. White, who said that he had such action under consideration and that the lynching would be investigated to "the fullest extent." White, however, pointed out that a new term of court would be opened in January and that a grand jury would be in session then.

Three Still Held

Three men, brothers from Quinwook, R. E. Legg, Pete Legg, and Jack Legg, already have been arrested in connection with the lynching. They were arrested by state police yesterday after several hours of questioning. They were lodged in separate cells in the jail from which the mob removed the Negroes who were awaiting trial in January on charges of slaying Constable Joseph Myles and Jack Brown, both of Quinwood. No charges were lodged against the brothers who were held for investigation upon orders of Prosecutor White.

Meanwhile, crowds of curious persons, including many tourists traveling the Midland trail, a national highway, continued to group around the telephone pole-gallows on the crest of a small hill. Telephone lines, nearly 40 in number that had been cut at the scene of the shooting were repaired today.

Only one rope was used to swing the two Negroes from the telephone pole at the scene of the lynching, two miles west of Lewisburg on the Midland trail. The rope was thrown across he cross arm of the pole and one end was tied about the neck of each of the victims. A half gallon of empty shells, used when the bodies were riddled by bullets, were found at the scene.

The circumstances indicated that methodical preparation had been made for the lynchings. Members of the mob had gathered at some designated spot and had driven quietly into town in about 15 automobiles from which the license plates had been removed. The telephone wires leading west from the town had been severed, apparently in an effort to insure the mob's safe escape.

All Wore Masks

Members of the mob that stormed the county jail and seized the Negroes after forcing the jailer to surrender his keys all wore makeshift masks, with one exception. One man had applied a heavy coat of talcum powder to hide his features.

After seizing the victims at the jail, the mob speeded out of town in automobiles, as quickly and as quietly as it had arrived.

Posses, organized by state police and Sheriff John H. Bowling after notified by the jailer, found the bodies dangling from the pole but discovered no trace of the mob. State police were organized under command of Lieutenant Frank H. Gibson, in charge of the district.

The two Negroes had been held for the fatal shooting of Myles and Brown at Leslie, near Rainelle, where the officer, with Brown as a companion, had gone to quiet revelry at a Negro dance. Myles was killed outright and Brown died the following day.

Protest Sent Conley

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (AP)—A telegram protesting against the lynching early yesterday of Tom Jackson and George Banks, Negro prisoners in the county jail at Lewisburg, W. Va., has been sent to Governor William G. Conley, of West Virginia by the Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The telegram asked that the governor take immediate action against the lynchers and "those officials through whose nonfeasance or malfeasance these mob murders were permitted."

PHILADELPHIA, PA
RECORD

DEC 1 3 1931

LYNCHINGS SCORED BY NEGRO COUNCIL

Beamish Urges State Group to Support Pinchot's Relief Program.

WEST CHESTER, Dec. 12.—Resolutions condemning the recent lynchings in Maryland and West Virginia and demanding that those responsible be brought to justice, were adopted today by the Pennsylvania State Negro Council.

More than 100 members of the council attended the meeting at Cheyney State Teachers' College. Resolutions were sent to Governor Albert C. Ritchie, of Maryland, and Governor William G. Conley, of West Virginia. The resolution read:

"The Pennsylvania State Negro Council desires to express its appreciation of the fact that you have denounced the lynching which has covered your State with shame, has weakened respect for law, and has brought a sense of insecurity of helpless citizens everywhere.

"Ne now earnestly and respectfully urge you to bring to justice, prompt and impartial, those who are responsible for this mob violence which strikes at the roots of our American democracy. We have in mind not only the unfortunate men who have been murdered, but the moral example of American people before the world."

Richard J. Beamish, Secretary of the Commonwealth, urged the Negro citizens of Pennsylvania to support Governor Pinchot's program on unemployment.

A resolution was adopted supporting the Governor's program.

Dr. William I. Hull, of Swarthmore College, another speaker, proposed the reduction of armaments as a means of bettering unemployment. Francis Fisher Kane, former United States Attorney in Philadelphia, spoke on vocational work among Negroes in ts relation to unemployment insurance.

Another resolution was passed by he council asking a vocational training school for Negroes in South Phila- lelphia.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Maryland

3516

HAGERSTOWN, MD
MAIL

DEC 7 193

ATT'Y GENERAL PLANS PROBE OF LYNCHING

Whole Power Of State Of Maryland At The Disposal Of Official

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 7 (AP).—Maryland officials today, working swiftly and silently under Attorney General Wm. Preston Lane, Jr. reached out today to punish all persons responsible for the lynching last Friday evening of Matthew Williams, negro, a few hours after he murdered a lumberman here.

Attorney General William Preston Lane, Jr., assured by Governor Ritchie that the whole power of the State was at his disposal, declined to divulge his plans to bring to justice, not only the leaders of the mob but all who participated in any way.

At the same time preparations for the trial in this Judicial circuit, at Cambridge Tuesday, of Yuel Lee, negro, accused of killing four white people in Worcester county in October, were abruptly halted as the jurists here acceeded to a defense plea and sent the records of the case to the Court of Appeals for review.

The members of the bench are now sitting in courts in several of the counties and it was expected that the review would not be possible until later in the week. The only question for the jurists to decide, it was said, was whether the judges here were within legal bounds in refusing to move the trial of Lee to the Western Shore as had been requested by defense counsel.

Denunciation of the lynching came from several Baltimore pulpits during the day.

The lynching was expected to result in arguments at Chestertown tomorrow for a change of venue in the case of George Davis, Eastern Shore Negro, held in Baltimore for saf keeping, on a charge of attempted assault on a Kent county white woman.

Both Lee and Davis have been in the Baltimore City Jail since their arrest and the attempt of Eastern Shore groups to seize them. Since the lynching, in which Williams was taken from the Peninsula General Hospital and hanged from a tree in the Courthouse yard and then burned, rumors have been frequent from several widely separated sections on the Shore of the formation of mobs to terrorize negro settlements.

County officers and State police after investigations reported the rumors to be false.

The Attorney General is working with the sheriff of Wicomico county, the chief of police of Salisbury and the judges of the Circuit Court to bring to justice the lynchers.

From Governor Ritchie, who returned to Baltimore from New York as soon as he learned of the hanging, came the following statement:

"The crime of this negro Williams was shocking, but he should have paid the penalty for it through legal machinery. The action of the mob in lynching him must bring the blush of shame to every law abiding Marylander whether on or off the Eastern Shore.

"The duty of ascertaining the perpetrators and punishing them rests on the authorities of Wicomico county, the State's attorney, the grand jury, and the Circuit Court. State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey is quoted as saying that he 'plans to prosecute the case vigorously, stopping not at the leaders but carrying it to every other person who took part and who can be identified.' "

The executive before departing for Chicago, where he is to speak, conferred with the Attorney General and other officers, assuring him of the support of all the State's forces in bringing punishment upon those guilty.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVE. SUN

DEC 14 193

LANE AT SHORE TOWN TO PRESS LYNCHING PROBE

Attorney - General Believed Armed With City Detectives' Report

TAKES ASSISTANTS; TO CALL ON BAILEY

Will Issue Statement On Course When He Returns To Baltimore

Attorney-General William P. Lane, Jr., today went to Salisbury to push the inquiry into the lynching there ten days ago.

He took with him Assistant Attorney-General G. C. A. Anderson and made preparations to remain on the Eastern Shore until tomorrow or Wednesday, but made no statement concerning the activities he contemplates during the trip.

It was learned that Mr. Lane intends to issue a statement soon after his return to his offices here describing the scope and the findings of the investigation thus far and the action he will recommend to Gov. Albert C. Ritchie, who ordered him to take part in the inquiry.

Has Detective's Report

Mr. Lane's departure for the scene of the investigation followed by a week the dispatch of detectives from the Baltimore Police Department, who were sent to Salisbury last Monday upon the request of the Attorney-General. It was indicated that they have completed their work there and that Mr. Lane was probably armed with their reports, to be laid before State's Attorney Levin Claude Bailey of Wicomico county.

These reports, it was said, would be the basis of future action of the prosecutors in regard to a special session of the Wicomico county grand jury to indicate those named as leaders and members of the mob which dragged Matthew Williams, colored murderer, from the Peninsula Hospital, hanged him on the Court house green, and burned his body on a hill overlooking the Negro section of Salisbury.

Confers With Bailey

The Attorney-General has been active in the investigation of the lynching since December 5, when Governor Ritchie instructed him to use all the facilities of his office to identify and prosecute the lynchers, but he has constantly declined to discuss the progress of the investigation.

It is known, however, that he has been in frequent communication by telephone with State's Attorney Bailey, with the detectives working on the case and with Police Commissioner Charles D. Gaither, to whom he sent the request which resulted in the Baltimore detectives going to Salisbury.

Other members of the State Law Department said that they expected Mr. Lane to return to his office here by tomorrow night.

CHARLESTON, W. VA
MAIL

DEC 10 1931

GOVERNOR ORDERS PROBE IN LYNCHING

Conley Says Guilty Persons Should be Prosecuted in "Horrible" Crime

A thorough investigation of the lynching of two Negroes at Lewisburg Thursday morning has been ordered by Governor Conley.

In a statement issued at his office Thursday morning, after being informed of the lynchings of the Negroes by an armed mob, the governor said that he had ordered the state police to make a thorough investigation of the case so that those guilty of the crime could be brought to justice.

Governor Conley deplored the crime in his statement, terming it 'a horrible thing."

State police were ordered to Lewisburg after the lynching to assist county authorities in an investigation.

Governor Conley's statement is as follows:

"I have asked state police to make a very thorough investigation in order that the parties guilty of the lynching be brought to justice, and that the proper prosecution be made. Such matters must not be tolerated in West Virginia. It is a deplorable thing! A horrible thing! Every good citizen who has the welfare and peace of the state at heart should aid in seeing that those guilty of the crime should be brought to justice promptly."

Six Previous Cases in State

Incomplete records reveal that there have been five previous lynchings in West Virginia since the state was formed. Three of these were in Kanawha county, one was in Lewis there have been six previous lynch- county, one was in Fayette county, and one was in Greenbrier county.

On January 24, 1876, two white men, John Dawson and Rufus Estep both 20 years old, charged with the murder of Thomas Lee, were taken from the Kanawha county jail by a band of about 400 men and hanged from the bridge across Campbell's creek, east of the city. A short time later a Negro, Thomas Hines charged with the murder of J. W Dooley, also was taken from the Kanawha jail and hanged to a tree near the same bridge.

The lynching in Lewis county was about 30 or 35 years ago. A Negro taken from the county jail at Weston, was the victim. The lynching in Fayette county was in 1919 when a white man was the victim.
a white man was the victim. Greenbrier county officials recalled Thursday that a Negro was lynched in the county 40 years ago.

Capital Crime

Lynching is a capital crime in West Virginia, the state code providing that "the putting to death of any person within this state by a mob or riotous assemblage shall be murder and every person participating in such mob or riotous assemblage by which a person is put to death shall be guilty of murder and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as the law provides in other cases of murder."

Greenbrier county is liable to the extent of $10,000 as a result of the lynchings Thursday morning.

The state code provides that "the county in which such person charged with a crime has been taken from a state, county or municipal officer, and lynched and put to death, shall be subject to a forfeiture of $5,000 which shall be recovered . . . in the name of the personal representative of the person put to death, for the use of the dependent family or estate."

The only recourse that the county would have is to prove that officials who had charge of the men were negligent in their duty. If this is proven then the county is authorized to collect the money under their official bonds

CHARLESTON, W. VA
GAZETTE

DEC 1 2 1931

Men Still Held For Lynchings

State Police Deny That One Has Confessed to Part in Slayings

LEWISBURG, Dec. 11.—Three brothers, R. E. Legg, Pete Legg and Jack Legg are still being held in jail here for investigation having been arrested by state police in connection with the lynching of two Negro prisoners who were taken from the Greenbrier county jail by a mob yesterday.

Reports current today that one of the men had confessed to having taken a part in the lynching and had divulged the names of others in the mob were denied, tonight by state police.

State and county officers are continuing their search for evidence as to the identity of members of the mob in the hills of Greenbrier county, watching particularly for automobiles which bear signs of having been splattered with the mud of the roads over which the mob traveled.

Jury Investigation

A special grand jury investigation will probably be called, according to Prosecuting Attorney James A. White, who said he had such action under consideration.

The officers still hold hope that weapons will be found which were used by the mob which took the two Negroes, Tom Jackson, 48, and George Banks, 26, from the jail, hanged them from the cross arm of a telephone pole and riddled their bodies with bullets. Weapons found might be indentified by peculiarities shown on empty shells among those picked up at the scene of the lynching.

Crowds of tourists and curious persons are constantly growing, continuing to group around the telephone pole gallows on the crest of a small knoll. The 40 telephone lines which had been cut at the scene of the shooting had been repaired today.

No Charges Made

The three brothers are lodged in separate cells in the jail from which the mob removed the Negroes who were awaiting trial in January on charges of slaying Constable Joseph Myles and Jack Brown, both of Quinwood. No charges have been lodged against the brothers who were held for investigation upon orders of Prosecutor White.

Methodical preparation had been made for the lynchings according to circumstances of the case. The mob had gathered at some designated spot and had driven into town in about 15 automobiles from which the license plates had been removed. The telephone wires leading west from the town had been severed, to insure the mob's safe escape apparently.

All but one member of the mob wore masks, his face having been covered with a thick layer of talcum powder to disguise his features.

Posses found the bodies dangling from the pole but discovered no trace of the mob. State police were organized under command of Lieutenant Frank H. Gibson, in charge of the district. Sheriff John H. Bowling organized one of the posses.

The two Negroes had been held for the fatal shooting of Myles and Brown at Leslie, near Rainelle, where the officer, with Brown as a companion, had gone to quiet revelry at a Negro dance. Myles was killed outright and Brown died the following day.

NEW YORK
HERALD-TRIBUNE

DEC 6 1931

Maryland Acts to Punish Leaders of Lynching Mob

Speedy Prosecution Promised for Negro Killer's Executioners

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 5 (AP). — Prompt prosecution of the leaders and all identifiable persons of the mob which last night lynched Mack Williams, Negro slayer, was promised today by State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey.

"There will be no more delay than is necessary for the identification of those who took part in this crime," Mr. Bailey said, after a conference with Sheriff G. Murray Phillips. "I plan to prosecute this case vigorously, stopping not at the leaders, but carrying it to every other person who took part who can be identified."

Governor Albert C. Ritchie returned hurriedly from New York and started an inquiry into action of the mob which dragged Williams from his hospital bed, lynched him in the courthouse yard and then burned his body.

"When the investigation is completed, I shall have something to say," the Executive declared. "But the matter is entirely too grave for me to talk about now. Of course, I am shocked by the lynching."

Williams, who was thirty-five years old, shot and killed his employer, Daniel J. Elliott. He killed him, he said, because Elliott "paid low wages."

New York Evening Journal

DEC 28 1931

LYNCHERS DEFY RITCHIE PROBE

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 28.—The eastern shore of Maryland is in open defiance of Gov. Ritchie in his efforts to prosecute those responsible for the lynching of a negro here December 4.

With "our little demonstration in the interest of law and order"—as the residents call it—now a matter of history, it became clear today local authorities intend to do nothing about the mob-killing of Matthew Williams.

Although Ritchie served notice immediately that every person connected with the lynching be fully punished, no arrests have been made, none is in prospect, and the coroner's jury appears satisfied to remain adjourned without any finding.

Over 2,000 persons witnessed the hanging and burning of the negro under a large battery of flood lights after he had confessed to killing a wealthy lumber merchant. Not a person has been found, however, able to remember anyone who took part in the actual lynching.

N. Y. EVENING POST

DEC 5 1931

MARYLAND OPENS WAR ON LYNCHERS

Prosecutor and Ritchie Promise Quick Retribution Against Mob

SLAYER HANGED, BURNED

SALISBURY, Md., Dec. 5 (AP).—Prompt prosecution of the leaders and all identifiable persons of the mob which last night lynched Mack Williams, Negro slayer, was promised today by State's Attorney Levin C. Bailey.

While Mr. Bailey inaugurated his plans for prosecution, Governor Ritchie returned hurriedly from New York and started a thorough inquiry into action of the mob which dragged Williams from his hospital bed, lynched him in the court house yard, and then burned his body.

Attorney General W. Preston Lane Jr. offered all the facilities of his office to Wicomico County authorities in their plans to prosecute the mob.

Sheriff Phillips told the State's Attorney he could not identify any members of the mob, which brushed him aside as he sought to gain possession of the body before it was burned.

Lynchings - 1931
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Missouri.

3520

NEW YORK SUN

JAN 13 1931

BURNING OF NEGRO MAY BE IGNORED

Sheriff Apathetic and Judge Hasn't Made Up Mind.

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 13 (A. P.) –Sheriff Harve England said today that he contemplated no action against leaders of a mob which yesterday seized his prisoner, Raymond Gunn, Negro, and burned him to death on the school house where he was charged with attacking and slaying Miss Verma Colter, 19-year old teacher.

Any action against the mob leaders, the 63-year old sheriff said, must be upon orders from "higher authorities." The Sheriff reiterated a previous statement that he had recognized some of those who wrested the Negro from him as Gunn was being taken to the court house for arraignment. He refused to name them.

D. D. Reeves, Circuit Judge, who was waiting to arraign the 28-year old ex-convict when the mob lynched him, said that he had "not made up his mind" whether he would call a grand jury to investigate the incident. He said that he had little information on the matter.

Virgil Rathbun, county prosecutor, repeated his comment of yesterday, which was that the mob action was

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ST. LOUIS, MO.
TIMES

JAN 15 1931

STATE TO PROBE LYNCHING CASE

Governor Caulfield and Attorney General Shartel, in conference today at Jefferson City, were expected to take definite action leading to an investigation of the lynching of Raymond Gunn, negro slayer of Velma Colter, at Maryville, Mo.

Before the conference Governor Caulfield said: "I am going to ask the attorney general to conduct an inquiry. He can do this with the co-operation of Virgil L. Rathbun, prosecuting attorney of Nodaway county, and I have every reason to believe Rathbun will co-operate."

Governor Caulfield also said that he had asked a full written report from Adj. Gen. A. V. Adams, who was present at the Maryville Armory with 50 guardsmen, waiting for a request for aid, which never came, from Sheriff Harve England when the lyinching took place.

Rathbun today said he had not started an investgiation, but would co-operate in every possible way in any investigation that might be undertaken by Attorney General Shartel. Sheriff Harve England, when asked if he would co-operate in such an investigation, said: "I suppose I would have to."

Attorney General Shartel issued this statement: "The terrible incident should serve one good purpose, that is, to stop such outrages in the future. This can be done only by placing in charge of such cases, immediately, expert, courageous trained state officers, who have no local interest and who are schooled and equipped to handle such emergencies.

"If the Governor had had available a squad of crack state policemen, equipped with tear bombs, this outrage would have been prevented, without injury to anyone, and the culprit would have been put to death in an orderly and lawful manner. This is the only way such cases are handled in modern, up-to-date states and it is the only way to meet the situation in Missouri."

COLUMBIA, MO
MISSOURIAN

JAN 16 1931

STATE SEEKS TO PUNISH LYNCHERS

Investigator Will Attempt to Fix Blame for Maryville Crime

JEFFERSON CITY, Jan. 16 (U.P.) —A special investigator of the attorney general's department was en route to Maryville today upon the orders of Gov. Caulfield to ferret out the facts surrounding the lynching Monday of Raymond Gunn, alleged Negro murderer.

The governor wrote Attorney General Stratton Shartel instructing him to "do everything in your power to see that those responsible for the crime are punished in accordance with the laws of this state." Shartel immediately appointed a member of his staff to investigate the lynching and report back to the governor. Shartel refused to reveal the name of the state investigator, preferring to have him work incognito.

The decision to probe the Maryville lynching came late yesterday after an all-day conference between the governor, attorney general and Adjt.-Gen. A. V. Adams, commander of state troops. Gen. Adams was on hand with fifty-five National Guardsmen at the hour the Negro was seized from the sheriff, but was powerless to intervene because Nodaway county officials did not officially ask his aid.

Gen. Adams made a complete written report to the governor yesterday, declaring that at no time, either before or during the mob action, was he asked to help county officials. He said Sheriff England of Nodaway County was "fully aware" that the troops could not interfere, under state law, until he made official request for assistance.

Shartel said his investigator had been instructed to determine, if possible, why the National Guard had not been asked to assist, inasmuch as they were mobilized and within a block of the courthouse when the Negro was seized.

NEWS
Jefferson City - Mo

JAN 16 1931

STATE WILL PROBE MOB LYNCHING

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Public Service Clipping
Bureau
230 W 19th. Street
1-29

Adams Makes Report.

Although lacking an official request for an investigation, Governor Caulfield and Attorney General Stratton Shartel have undertaken an inquiry into the lynching Monday of Raymond Gunn, negro, at Maryville, Mo.

Nodaway county officials have not made a formal request to the state for assistance but Governor Caulfield said the state "was proceeding on the theory that Nodaway county will welcome any investigation of law violations in the county."

Gunn, accused of assaulting and murdering Velma Colter, 19-year-old school teacher at her country schoolhouse four miles from Maryville last December 16, was seized by a mob Monday as he was being taken to the Maryville courthouse for a preliminary hearing. He was carried to the schoolhouse, chained to the ridgepole and burned.

"This action on the part of the mob was a defiance of the law, an outrage upon justice, and a disgrace to the state," said the Governor in a letter to Attorney General Shartel directing the inquiry.

"I therefore request that you or some one delegated by you make a thorough investigation of the facts surrounding this occurrence and do everything in your power to see that those responsible for the crime are punished in accordance with the laws of this state."

Attorney General Shartel ordered a special investigation to proceed to Nodaway county. He did not reveal the identity of the investigator, but said his report would be made to the Governor and Attorney General who then would determine the state's future course.

Governor Caulfield also announced the official report of Adjutant General A. V. Adams, commander of the Missouri National Guard, who was in Maryville on orders of the Governor to assist in protection of Gunn if requested by local officers.

Gen. Adams' report confirmed his earlier statements that he had conferred with Sheriff Harve England of Nodaway county the night before the lynching, and had mobilized a company of National Guard troops to be held in the armory at Maryville awaiting call of Sheriff England if the situation demanded.

The report told of conversations between General Adams and Sheriff England and a Mr. Wright of Maryville, former prosecuting attorney of the county. Mr. Wright, the report said, told the sheriff and Gen. Adams there would be hundreds of people in Maryville Monday morning, "some drawn by curiosity, but that he was fearful others would come with more definite ideas as to doing bodily harm to the prisoner, and that he was very fearful there would be trouble in the city when an attempt was made to bring the prisoner into court."

General Adams advised the sheriff to increase his force of deputies, impressing on him, he said, the fact that the National Guard could act only on his official request.

"Sheriff England replied he was aware of that and would wait until the next morning and see what the condition was and then take such action as he felt necessary in the case."

From the information he was able to obtain, General Adams said, it appeared that the sheriff was in doubt as to his ability to handle the situation. For this reason the troops were mobilized and held in readiness. The battery remained in the armory until 3 p. m., the day of the lynching, "having received no official communication of any kind from the sheriff or official of the county.

"Myself and other National Guard officers at Maryville took it for granted that the sheriff felt he was amply provided with assistance to handle any situation that might arise without the use of military forces. After it was known that the mob had taken the prisoner from the sheriff and we had received no request from the sheriff for assistance we took it for granted that he was taking steps and had the necessary assistance to recover the prisoner.

"I felt that inasmuch as the sheriff knew the National Guard was mobilized within a block from the courthouse and available to him by the asking, he had laid his own plans and that with the assistance of his deputies was attempting to recover the prisoner, and that any action the military forces might take, not co-ordinated with the sheriff's efforts, would complicate the effort more than assist. This coupled with the fact that under the state law the military forces have no authority to act in such situations except after official request resulted in the National Guard unit remaining in their armory."

POST

Hannibal, Mo

JAN 15 1931

STATE OPENS INVESTIGATION OF LYNCHING

Shartel Orders Inquiry Of Maryville Affair.

CONDEMNED BY HOUSE

Lower Chamber Adopts Resolution Calling For Probe

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 15.—(AP)—Attorney General Stratton Shartel today ordered a special investigator from his office to inquire into the lynching of Raymond Gunn, negro, by a mob at Maryville, Mo., Monday morning.

The attorney general ordered the inquiry upon request of Governor Caulfield, who spent the morning in conference with Adjutant General A. V. Adams, who was in command of national guard troops assembled at Maryville to prevent the lynching.

General Adams was at Maryville, holding one company of troops in the armory awaiting call from Sheriff Harve England of Nodaway county. The troops never were called, General Adams reported to the chief executive.

Inquiry Starts at Once.

Shartel would not reveal the identity of the special investigator. The inquiry will be started at once, he said. The investigator's report will be made direct to the governor and attorney general who then will determine what further action will be taken. The investigator will inquire particularly into the leadership of the mob and the action of county officials, it was said. Gunn, accused of assault on Velma Cotter, 19-year old school teacher at her country schoolhouse last December 16, was taken by a mob Monday morning, chained to the ridge-pole of the schoolhouse and burned to death.

Governor Caulfield will announce General Adams' official report when it has been prepared.

House Condemns Mob.

The house of the Missouri legislature today adopted a resolution condemning the lynching of Raymond Gunn, negro, at Maryville, Mo., Monday, and urging any local official derelict in duty in connection with the affair be punished. The resolution, introduced by Rep. W. E. Freeland of Taney county, followed action of the

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1.)

house Tuesday in postponing a resolution for a searching investigation by state officials of the lynching.

The resolution, adopted today without debate:

"Whereas the indefinite postponement of the resolution condemning the recent mob action at Maryville, Mo., has been misconstrued by some as an apology for the action of the mob.

"Therefore be it resolved by the house of representatives that we hereby condemn the barbarous action of the mob and urge that all officers charged with responsibility for law and order use their utmost endeavor to bring the offenders to justice and especially to punish any officer found derelict in his duty in defending and protecting the prisoner in his charge."

Missouri Governor Will Investigate Lynching

Chicago Defender

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 23.—Although Missouri offered no protection to Raymond Gunn when he was lynched by an unmasked mob of Nodaway county's most prosperous professional and business men last week, the state proved that it could mobilize its national guardsmen when it thought some white persons might be hurt.

The cause for the hurried mobilization of guardsmen and deputizing hundreds of private white citizens to arm themselves to patrol the streets of Maryville, was a rumor that "several automobile loads of Negroes had departed from Kansas City and St. Joseph" to avenge the lynching of Gunn.

The order to call out the guards came from Governor Henry S. Caulfield at the request of Mayor W. O. Garret of Maryville, who was acting upon a telephone message from a Mrs. L. L. Edwards, who stated that she had heard a friend of hers tell some one else that she had heard a rumor that "Negroes" might come to Maryville. This action showed how quickly the forces of the law could work when white people want them to work.

It was a great contrast to what happened when Gunn was lynched in the most deliberate and atrocious manner ever recorded. The man, arrested in December for murder and rape, had been confined in jail at Kansas City until time for his trial which was scheduled to open here last week. Long before he was returned here there was talk of a lynching. Governor Caulfield, apprehensive of what might happen, ordered the local guard under arms and placed the soldiers at the disposal of Sheriff Harvey England. The sheriff, fearing that some member of the guard might get hurt, refused to call them from the armory where they were housed a few blocks away from the scene of the lynching. It looked as if the guardsmen were placed in the armory for their protection rather than to help maintain law and order. Gunn was taken from the sheriff and his deputies—at least the sheriff claimed that he was taken from him—tied on top of the schoolhouse on which gasoline and kerosene had been poured and set afire. Huge crowds of men and women giggled gleefully as the flames licked the man's writhing form and his cries rent the night air.

While this was going on the soldiers were executing "squads right" and "squads left" in the armory.

Yet upon the flimsiest rumor that "Negroes" were coming to the town everywhere one looked soldiers were in evidence. They should have saved themselves the trouble, however. Experience should have taught them that no "Negroes" would come to Maryville or to any other town to break up the lynching fever. They would rather stay at home and write petitions to the sheriff and to the mayor, neither of whom is interested in justice where white people are concerned.

There are one or two instances on record where lynchings have been averted by courage of the people living in and around the town where the mob contemplated its act. There has never been a lynching in Savannah, Ga. Just once it was tried and the result was two armed camps instead of one. When the white mob observed a ring around the jail and back of the ring determined armed men who were offering their services to the sheriff to prevent the lynching, its members decided that they had better let justice take its course after all. They reached a similar decision in Muskogee, Okla., in 1916 under similar conditions.

White mobs are cowardly. They have proved this every time they have been challenged. When Gunn was first taken to Kansas City the mob thought of "going up there for him," but soon changed its mind when informed that there are more "Negroes" in Kansas City than there are in Maryville.

And what of the actual cause of the lynching? The sheriff, who has proved his incompetence, declares that the youth confessed his guilt, although there are many people in Maryville and more in Kansas City who doubt it. There is a persistent rumor that the bloodhounds brought to the schoolhouse shortly after the white teacher was murdered led the posse directly to the boarding house where the teacher lived. This was repeated when the dogs were taken back to the scene, according to information. At no time did the dogs lead the mob to the home of Raymond Gunn.

Gunn had made no effort to leave town after the murder of the teacher. He was picked up on suspicion because he had been sentenced to four years at one time for an attempted attack on another young woman. It is stated freely here that Gunn was not guilty in the first case, and the fact that he was given only four years and freed in a few months is evidence of this fact.

There is another persistent rumor that a young white boy, suspended from the school by the murdered teacher, lived at the house where she boarded, left town the night she was murdered and has not yet returned. In Kansas City a white man drank too much liquor last week and then broadcast the fact that he knew a white man killed the young teacher. He declares that he knows who raped and murdered her, and that it wasn't Gunn.

But the boy is lynch victim No. 1 for 1931 in these United States, and there doesn't seem to be much that can be done about it.

Governor Caulfield, whose reputation for courage and fairness is unsurpassed by that of any chief executive of the state, has ordered an investigation in spite of the fact that the authorities of Nodaway county have not asked for it and have indicated that they will be hostile to it. The Missouri law states that the governor is powerless to act unless the sheriff or prosecuting attorney of the county in which the lynching takes place requests an investigation.

In the meantime Race citizens of Missouri are petitioning that the sheriff of Nodaway county, the prosecuting attorney, the adjutant general of Missouri and the mayor of Maryville be removed from office. Others have passed resolutions condemning the lynching, while others have gone still further, suggesting that the national guard be abolished.

But so far no automobile loads of armed men have been seen. Wherever they are armed they are armed with petitions and resolutions. By this method they hope to have lynchings abolished and bring justice to themselves and their posterity. They are still optimistic.

LAFAYETTE, IND.
JOURNAL & COURIER

MAR 16 1931

LYNCHING CASES DROPPED

The attempt to impose just punishment on alleged participants in the Marion mob has been abandoned by Attorney General James M. Ogden. The state authorities apparently have been unable to make headway against an organized callousness and an entrenched and organized mob spirit in the community where the mob got in its work last summer. The pulse of prejudice and outlawry seems to animate alike the mob, the citizenry, the official and judicial elements.

Repeated demonstrations of collapse, failure and shameful laxity in the places of justice in Grant county, moving an outraged people to anger and finally to rash and criminal reprisals, had resulted at last in a twisted state of mind and a fixity of public opinion that made it impossible to bring about an intelligent approach or an impartial handling of the cases of the alleged mob leaders.

Marion people had seen unnumbered lawbreakers and criminals go unwhipped of justice. Grant county had set up a notorious and unsavory record of laxity, leniency and suspended sentences. The people were sick and tired of the immunity parade of the insolent criminal element. The public was fed up on inefficiency in office. The time was ripe for protest and the mob outrage was the culmination of a series of provocations.

It is evident that the Marion public did not make any pretense of demanding the punishment of mob leaders. The public thought of the fact that a veritable army of other wrong-doers had been let off prior to the lynching of last year, and stolidly barred the way to action against the mob.

In one crazy night one crime had bred a thousand criminals. A jurisprudence which had evaded the imposition of just penalties in ordinary criminal cases over a period of years could not be expected suddenly to develop the stamina, the character or the fundamental grasp of the mob crisis needed for the enforcement of law and order against those who had merely lynched Justice.

Lynchings-1931
&
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Missouri.

MAN HANGED ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Norfolk Journal & Guide
1/24/31

Protests His Innocence To The Very End

CLEVELAND, Miss.—The State exacted the death penalty from Philip Hays, 25, convicted of criminal assault on a young white girl in a rural section of this county.

Protesting his innocence to the end, Hays was taken to the gallows on the courthouse lawn and hanged at 11:17 a. m. last Friday. He was declared dead 14 minutes later. The execution was witnessed by a large number of Boliver County citizens.

Hays was sentenced to death following his trial last year, the State Supreme Court affirming the verdict and penalty.

He was one of five persons scheduled to hang in Mississippi Friday, his application for executive clemency alone failing to win a reprieve or commutation. A pair of reprieves and a commutation halted three scheduled executions in Washington County near here, and another scheduled execution in Lauderdale County was delayed because of the appeal to the Supreme Court.

Hays' body was not claimed by his family, and it was buried by the county

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NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 14 1931

STATE STARTS INQUIRY IN MISSOURI LYNCHING

But Resolution Condemning Mob's Action Is Rejected in Lower House of Legislature.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 13 (AP).—An inquiry by Governor Caulfield and other State officials into the lynching of Raymond Gunn, Negro, at Maryville Monday, was begun tonight.

Adjt. Gen. A. V. Adams, who was at Maryville with a local National Guard company, awaiting a call from Sheriff Harve England when the lynching took place, returned to Jefferson City late today and conferred with the Governor. Governor Caulfield asked him to make a written report, which probably will be ready tomorrow.

Governor Caulfield said that the Adjutant General confirmed reports from Maryville that he had conferred with Sheriff England prior to Monday, and it had been agreed that the National Guard troops should remain in the armory, and the sheriff would call them if they were needed. No call for the troops was received.

The House of Representatives today refused to entertain a resolution condemning the lynching, and denouncing Nodaway County officials for not resisting the mob more stoutly.

Representative William Job of Nodaway County was loudly applauded when he spoke against the resolution.

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 13 (AP).—County officials took no action today against members of a mob which yesterday lynched Raymond Gunn, a Negro, who killed Velma Colter, a teacher.

The temper of Nodaway County citizens was revealed by threats against another Negro accused by Gunn of participation in the crime. The other Negro, Paul (Shike) Smith, arrested at Omaha, was released today, when officers here said that he had established a clear alibi.

NEW YORK WORLD

JAN 14 1931

MISSOURI STARTS LYNCHING INQUIRY

Gov. Caulfield Calls on Guard Officer for Report

ASSEMBLY AVOIDS ISSUE

Negroes Here Ask Executive to Remove Sheriff

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 13 (A. P.)—Inquiry by Gov. Caulfield and other state officials into the lynching of Raymond Gunn, Negro, at Maryville Monday, got under way tonight.

Adjutant Gen. A. V. Adams, who was at Maryville with a local national guard company, awaiting a call from Sheriff Harve England when the lynching occurred, returned to Jefferson City late today and conferred with the Governor, who asked him to make a written report, which probably will be ready tomorrow.

Gov. Caulfield said Adams confirmed reports from Maryville that he had conferred with Sheriff England prior to Monday and it had been agreed the National Guard troops should remain in the armory and the sheriff would call them if they were needed. No call for the troops was received.

The House of Representatives today refused to entertain a resolution condemning the lynching, and Nodaway County officials for not resisting the mob more stoutly.

County Fails to Take Action Against Members of Mob

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 13 (A. P.)—County officials took no action today against members of a mob that yesterday lynched Raymond Gunn, Negro, confessed attacker and slayer of Velma Colter, although it was understood Gov. Caulfield planned an investigation.

The investigation, it was revealed by a high official source in Jefferson City, would be directed by the Attorney General regardless of action or lack of action on the part of Nodaway County officials.

Harve England, elderly sheriff of Nodaway County, said "higher authorities" would have to order any action taken against the men who seized his prisoner and sent him to death, chained to the blazing schoolhouse in which was found the body of the nineteen-year-old teacher.

Negroes Here Ask Caulfield to Remove Sheriff

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, yesterday telegraphed Gov. Caulfield of Missouri, asking the prompt removal of Sheriff Harve England of Maryville, on the ground of "cowardice, incompetence, and neglect of duty" in failing to call troops to prevent the public burning alive of Raymond Gunn, a Negro.

The telegram was signed by Robert W. Bagnall, acting secretary of the association.

STANDARD UNION
Brooklyn, N.Y.

JAN 13 1931

NEGRO'S LYNCHERS NOT PROSECUTED

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 13 (UP)—Having methodically burned to death a Negro accused of attacking a white girl, the community of Maryville waited quietly to-day to see what, if anything, was to be done about it.

Sheriff Harve England, who was injured by a mob that took Raymond Gunn by force, chained him atop the school house where he admitted he had killed Velma Colter, and set fire to the building, showed no disposition to arrest any of the ringleaders, although admitting he knew their names. He said, however, that if either a grand jury or Gov. Caulfield asked him the names he would tell them.

N. Y. EVENING POST

JAN 13 1931

SHERIFF WON'T ACT IN NEGRO'S BURNING

Prosecution of Marysville, Mo., Mob Leaders Must Come From "Higher Up," He Says

STATE ATTORNEY SILENT

MARYVILLE, Mo., Jan. 13 (AP).—Sheriff England said today he contemplated no action against leaders of a mob which yesterday seized his prisoner, Raymond Gunn, Negro, and burned him to death on the school house where he was charged with assaulting and slaying Miss Velma Colter, nineteen-year-old teacher.

Any action against the mob leaders, the sixty-three-year-old sheriff said, must be upon orders from "higher authorities." The Sheriff reiterated a previous statement that he had recognized some of those who wrested the Negro from him as Gunn was being taken to the court house for arraignment. He refused to name them.

D. D. Reeves, circuit judge, who was waiting to arraign the twenty-eight-year-old ex-convict when the mob lynched him, said he had "not made up his mind" whether he would call a Grand Jury to investigate the incident. eH said he had little information on the matter.

Virgil Rathbun, County Prosecutor, repeated his comment of yesterday, which was that the mob action was "deplorable."

The County Prosecutor said his investigation had convinced him Gunn alone was responsible for the assault and murder. Some of those who marched with the negro to his pyre yesterday said he declared Paul "Shike" Smith actually had slain the girl. Smith is held in jail at Omaha.

ASKS REMOVAL OF SHERIFF IN LYNCHING CITY

Call & Post
1-24-31
Cleveland, Ohio

NEW YORK,—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has telegraphed to Governor Henry S. Caulfield of Missouri asking him to remove Sheriff Harvey England at Maryville, on the ground of "cowardice, incompetence and neglect of duty," in that he failed to call waiting state troops and prevent the public burning alive of Raymond Gunn, Negro charged with assault and murder.

The N. A. A. C. P. also is asking Missouri branches to take all possible action to procure punishment of the lynchers and of culpable officers of the law, the Sheriff whose removal is asked having, admitted he knew the names of the lynchers but expressing the intention of doing nothing against them.

The Kansas City branch of the N. A. A. C. P. defended the lynched Negro five years ago at which time he was charged with assault.

KANSAS CITY, MO.
STAR

MAY 20 1931

LYNCHING ECHO IN RISK SUIT.

Garrett School District Sues to Collect Insurance.

(By The Star's Own Service.)

MARYVILLE, Mo., May 20.—Another repercussion of the lynching of Raymond Gunn here last January 12 occurred today with the filing of a suit by the Garrett school district for $1,200 against the Farmers Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company of Nodaway County.

Gunn, young Maryville Negro who confessed to the murder of Miss Velma Colter, was seized by a mob and burned on the top of the Garrett school, which was destroyed. The insurance policy on the school was taken out November 15, 1930, and was divided $1,000 on the building and $200 on the contents, although the value of both was estimated at $3,000. A large part of the contents was removed before the building was fired. The case will be tried in circuit court here in October.

POST

Jefferson City, Mo

JAN 1 3 1931

A STATE INVESTIGATION TO BE MADE IN NEGRO LYNCHING AT MARYVILLE

Regardless of What the County Authorities Do, Gov. Caulfield Will Press Inquiry Through Attorney General.

HOUSE REFUSES TO CONDEMN MOB

"Gunn Got Just What He Deserved," One Speaker Says On Floor of Missouri House of Representatives.

A state investigation will be made of the lynching of Raymond Gunn, negro, at Maryville, yesterday, it was learned today. Although Governor Caulfield had no comment pending return tonight of Adjutant General A. V. Adams from Maryville, it was learned from a high source an inquiry would be made at the governor's direction.

The Chief Executive, it is understood, will direct an investigation through Attorney General Stratton Shartel, regardless of whatever action or lack of action Nodaway county officials take.

Under Missouri law, however, a prosecuting attorney of a county must request the governor to direct the Attorney General to aid in investigations and prosecutions, and the prosecutor has sole discretion in this.

The governor and attorney general can step in, however, unofficially, but any results produced by such an investigation would have to go to the prosecuting attorney.

It is expected by state officials however, that findings made by such an unofficial inquiry warrant action, the prosecuting attorney would co-operate.

The Nodaway County prosecutor has notified Governor Caulfield, it was learned today, that he would do all in his power to investigate the seizing of the negro by the mob of 2,000 and burning of Gunn at the rural school where he confessed to attacking and killing Velma Colter, the teacher, and state officials anticipate the prosecutor's co-operation.

An effort to have the House of the Missouri legislature condemn the lynching of Raymond Gunn, negro, at Maryville, Mo., yesterday and have state officials conduct a "searching investigation," failed today.

A resolution introduced by Gil P. Bourk, democrat, one of the Kansas City representatives, criticizing the Nodaway county officials was tabled after a spirited debate.

The House adopted a motion offered by Rep. J. M. Joffee, democrat of Kansas City, that the resolution be tabled and postponed indefinitely because of the manner in which it was worded.

Various representatives opposed the resolution on the ground it sought to condemn the Nodaway county officials without a hearing. Representative Jones Parker, republican, of St. Louis, speaker of the House last session, was the only one urging adoption of Bourk's adoption.

Representative William Job of Nodaway county, in which Maryville is located, was loudly applauded when he spoke against the resolution, described the crime for which Gunn was lynched as "scarcely without parallel in the annals of crime," and said:

Up to the County

"Let the people of Nodaway county handle this matter—they are able to do it."

The resolution read:

"Whereas, the constitution of the United States and the constitution of Missouri guarantees to every person, regardless of creed, or color, a trial by jury, and:

"Whereas, one Raymond Gunn, negro, was denied this inalienable right at Maryville, Mo., on January 12, by a lawless mob which took the law into its own hands and lynched Gunn;

"Whereas, a National Guard Company of sixty men had been assembled at the Maryville armory to prevent violence and were within a stone's throw of the courthouse when the prisoner was seized, and they were not called by the sheriff;

"And whereas, it is apparent there was no co-ordination between the local officers and the National Guardsmen in protecting the life of the prisoner;

"Therefore, be it resolved that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Governor Henry S. Caulfield and Attorney General Stratten Shartel order and conduct a thorough and searching investigation to determine the cause of this flagrant breakdown in law enforcement, to the end that the guilty members of the mob shall be brought to justice and speedily punished."

Give Officials Time

Representative H. O. Maxey of Bates county, democrat and a veteran legislator, speaking against the resolution just before it was tabled, said the proposal was seeking to follow the mob by not giving the Nodaway county officials a chance to a hearing and assuming they did not do all possible to prevent the seizing of Gunn.

"We are trying to place the stigma of condemnation on the people of a great county without giving them a hearing," Maxey said.

Representative Parker, in urging adoption of the measure, said that while he did not condone the negro's crime in attacking and killing Velma Colter, the school teacher, still the mob was not justified in sending Gunn "to the most heinous death a man can meet."

Most of those who spoke against the resolution declared they were not for mob law, but Representative Nick M. Bradley, democrat, of Warrensburg, Johnson County, said he thought the officers of Nodaway county should conduct any investigation to be made and that "personally, I think he (Gunn) got just what he deserved."

Governor Caulfield said shortly after noon today he had no comment or statement to make with regard to the lynching at Maryville, Mo., yesterday of Raymond Gunn, negro charged with assaulting and slaying Miss Velma Colter, rural school teacher.

The chief executive said he wanted to confer with Adjutant General A. V .Adams, commander of the Missouri National Guard, who was in charge of a detachment of Missouri National Guardsmen while the negro was lynched, before discussing the case.

General Adams is expected to reach Jefferson City late today.

The guard detachment was not called upon by Sheriff Harve Englang, of Nodaway County, to assist in prevention of the lynching of Gunn. Under Missouri laws, militia has no authority to act except at the request of county authorities unless a state of martial law has been declared

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

North Dakota.

3523

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

1-30-31

Governor Orders Lynching Probe

SCHAFER, N. D., Jan. 29.—(AP)—The Governor of North Dakota moved tonight for summary action against members of a mob from his home county who had snatched a confessed slayer of six persons from the McKenzie County Jail and hanged him nearby.

Gov. George Shafer, who spent his boyhood in isolated McKenzie County, sent three State officials to Schafer and lashed out at the lynching of Charles Bannon, 22, as a "shameful act."

Reverting to the quick-trigger days before law and order came to this old time cow country, the mob gathered at the jail about 1 a.m., and crashed its way into the slayer's cell. When the crowd dispersed as swiftly and as silently as it had formed, the body of Charles Bannon, youthful slayer of the A. E. Haven family, was left hanging from a bridge over Cherry Creek, about a quarter of a mile from town. His neck was broken.

Young Bannon died pleading that his father, James F. Bannon, also held for the killings, be not harmed. The youth, in his confession, declared he alone was responsible for the Haven family massacre, which, he said, occurred after a quarrel last February. The mob made no effort to molest the elder Bannon.

NEW YORK SUN

JAN 29 1931

GOVERNOR ORDERS LYNCHING INQUIRY

Calls North Dakota Hanging a Shameful Act.

BISMARCK, N. D., Jan. 29 (A. P.)—Gov. George F. Shafer today ordered a thorough investigation of the lynching of Charles Bannon, slayer of six members of the Haven family, and sent three State officials to the scene of the hanging, near Schafer.

"The hanging of Bannon by a mob," Gov. Shafer said, "is a shameful act, which destroys the good reputation of the State for law and order. Lynch law in North Dakota should not be tolerated."

The Governor said an investigation would be made to determine the identities of the mob leaders and members.

Attorney-General James Morris, Adjutant-Gen. G. A. Fraser and Gunder Osjord, head of the State Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, left for Schafer after the Governor communicated to them the news of the lynching.

The lynching was the twelfth in North Dakota since 1888, an unofficial investigation indicated. It was impossible to locate official records immediately because of the confusion resulting from the recent fire which destroyed the State Capitol. The victims of the previous lynchings were seven white men, three Indians and one Negro.

PRESS

Carson, N.D.

FEB 5 1931

GOVERNOR ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF BANNON LYNCHING

MORRIS GOES TO START QUERY OF MOB ACTION

Fresh on the heels of the ghastly lynching of Charles Bannon at Schafer January 29, a bill was introduced into the senate defining the punishment for first degree murder in the state of North Dakota. The bill, which changes the session laws dealing with this crime, gives two punishments for the offense, death or life imprisonment. The bill was introduced by Senators Ployhar and Cain.

From the twisted strands of hemp rope that snatched life from Charles Bannon on a bridge near Schafer early January 29, state and county officials hope to unravel the details and identities figuring in the lynching of the confessed destroyer of the A. E. Haven family of six.

Through the lethal strands runs a threat of red hemp, the trademark of the manufacturer, the telltale index to the man or men who purchased the weapon with which they executed, in frontier fashion, a youth who had committed one of the most horrible crimes in North Dakota history.

Governor George F. Shafer has ordered a thorough investigation of this affair that had happened in the town named for his late father, the town from which he comes.

Attorney General James Morris, Adjutant General G. A. Fraser, Gunder Osjord, head of the state bureau of criminal identification and apprehension, and Fay Hunter, Osjord's assistant, were dispatched to Schafer.

On their arrival, the investigators went immediately into conference with States Attorney J. S. Taylor of McKenzie county who told them the story, as he knew of it, of how a masked and armed mob of approximately 80 men had battered its way into the Schafer jail, overpowered the jail guardian, Deputy Sheriff Peter S. Hallan, pounded its way into the cell of Charles Bannon and taken him to his doom, leaving James F. Bannon, the sextuple slayer's father, unharmed in his cell a few feet away.

The hangman's rope with its hangman's knot was first shown the investigators. Down its twisted length ran the red strand. That strand, Attorney General Morris is convinced, will lead to someone who knows something about the hanging.

Morris has ordered his trio of coworkers to find out who makes that type rope, who sells it in the McKenzie county country, and to whom it was sold.

If one man, or many men, are eventually brought to task for the invocation of the lynch law, he, or they, possibly may face charges of murder, riot, conspiracy, and taking of a prisoner from the custody of police officers. That was the indication Morris made when questioned.

As to the reasons why the justice of the old west was invoked, Morris said: "Evidently the mob believed in capital punishment. Apparently the lynching was not because the mob feared Charles Bannon would not receive the maximum penalty of life imprisonment, but rather felt that such punishment was not sufficient for the crime he had committed

"We want to co-operate with local officials in making a full investigation Lynching is a crime of enough importance to interest state as well as local officials.

"My investigation so far leads me to believe that the lynching was well planned in advance and carried out in all planned details. Apparently there were three or more leaders who kept the mob organized and under control.

"Governor Shafer has been deeply moved by this crime. The governor said "The hanging of Bannon by a mob is a shameful act which destroys the good reputation of the state for law and order. Lynch law in North Dakota should not be tolerated.' He has ordered us to go to the bottom of it."

In recent weeks Charles Bannon had told of the mental tortures he was experiencing as a result of his brutal slayings of Mr. and Mrs. Haven and their four children, and he had experienced great fear of punishment upon entering into eternity. Religion was frequently the topic of his discussions.

So far as is known, Charles went to his death at the end of a dangling rope still protesting the innocence of his father for whose safety he pleaded with the mob as they led him out of jail and put a noose around his neck.

The mob quickly dispersed after Charles was shoved over the bridge railing to his death and there was no one today who had come forward to authorities to name any members of the party of lynchers.

Deputy Sheriff Hallan, who served as jailer of the small McKenzie county lockup and Sheriff Sivert Thompson, who lives nearby, were the two officers taken into custody by the mob while they worked for approximately one hour before they gained admittance and seized the young slayer.

Precautions were taken by the mob to make certain that they would not be interrupted in their work. The telephone wire between Watford City and Schafer was cut before they appeared at the jail and sheriff's office which adjoin each other in the town of 51 population.

Coroner Harry Larson and Sheriff Thompson, first officials to arrive at the scene of the hanging, found Bannon's body at the end of an eight-foot rope, hanging from a bridge railing over Cherry creek, which also flows through the Haven farm, two miles away.

Life was extinct from the youth's body and the remains were hauled up to the bridge railing and were laid in an undertaker's basket for removal to an undertaking parlor at Watford City.

An inch rope which had been placed around Bannon's neck had cut deeply and left the flesh discolered. On two or three places on his face small bruises appeared. His arms were tied tightly behind him. On the left side of his face some clay was attached and how it got there is not known. Neither is it known how the small bruises were inflicted.

There were no shot wounds.

The body gave no evidence of having been dragged and apparently Bannon had been transported to the death site in one of the at least two trucks known to have been included in the machines in which the mob traveled.

A post mortem on the body was performed by Coroner Larson and Dr. P. O. C. Johnson immediately after it was brought to Watford City and Dr. Johnson pronounced death as having been due to strangulation and a fractured neck.

Bannon was fully clothed, including shoes and stockings, giving evidence he apparently had not undressed before the mob arrived at about 12:30 a. m. or else he had risen and dressed when he heard the battering on the jail door and probably sensed his doom.

Lynchings - 1931
Legal Punishment of Lynchers

South Carolina

3526

RECORD
COLUMBIA, S. C.

MAR 16 1931

DEMANS $2,000 FOR LYNCHING

Supreme Court Hears Widow's Petition Against Oconee County

The effort of Corrie Green, widow of a lynch victim, to collect $2,000 from Oconee county as provided by law, was before the supreme court today.

Her husband, Allen Green, was taken from the jail at Walhalla April 20, 1930, and shot to death by a band of men. He had been accused of criminal assault.

The law provides that the heirs of a lynch victim are to receive $2,000, but officials of Oconee county have refused payment, contending there had been no appropriation for this purpose.

A hearing was held here Saturday, at which time the court took the matter under advisement.

In the petition, the statement is made that "the petitioner is informed and believes that the officers of the county of Oconee and the respondents above named are making no efforts whatsoever to pay said judgment." The court is asked to order a special levy.

The treasurer of the county, W. W. West, the supervisor, J. A. Page, and the auditor, Ralph M. Pike, are named in the petition.

Seneca, S. C., Journal
Wednesday, March 18

$2,000 SOUGHT IN LYNCHING CASE

Widow Declares Oconee Refuses To Pay Sum For Death of Allen Green.

The effort of Corrie Green, widow of a lynch victim, to collect $2,000 from Oconee county, as provided by law, is now before the supreme court.

Allen Green, her husband, was taken from the jail at Walhalla April 20. 1930, and shot to death by a band of men. He had been accused of criminal assault.

The law provides that the heirs of a lynch victim are to receive $2,000 but officials of Oconee county have refused payment, contending there had been no appropriation for this purpose.

A hearing was held in Columbia Saturday at which time the supreme court took the matter under advisement.

In the petition, the statement is made that "the petitioner is informed and believes that the officers of the county of Oconee and the respondents above named are making no efforts whatsoever to pay said judgment." The court is asked to order a special levy.

W. W. West, treasurer, J. A. Pace, supervisor, and Ralph M. Pike, auditor, are named in the petition.

AUGUSTA, GA.
CHRONICLE

MAR 20 1931

LAW SHOULD BE REPEALED

The widow of a man lynched in Oconee county is finding some difficulty in collecting the $2,000 which the county is due her under the law. Oconee officials claim that they have not the funds with which to pay the judgment nor the power to levy a tax to provide the necessary money, and the county delegation has refused to place same in the supply bill.

In our opinion, that is a law that should be repealed. We don't know why it was ever passed, unless the author thought that it might possibly act as a deterrent upon would be lynchers, as the law further provides that the county may institute an action against the parties guilty of the lynching and recover the amount paid out.

Anybody who knows anything about mobs knows that the fact that the family of the victim is entitled to recover damages does not act as a deterrent, and it is also a well known fact that it is practically impossible to convict anybody connected with a lynching; therefore, it is practically impossible for the county to collect from the lynchers.

If the family of the victim of mob vengeance could prove that the person lynched was innocent of the crime that caused the lynching, there would be more justification in requiring a county to pay damages.

As long as the present law remains on the staute books, counties will continue to be held liable for such damages—and the law will in no way minimize the danger of lynchings.

Why not repeal it?—Barnwell People-Sentinel.

LEGISLATOR OF S. C. SEEKS TO REPEAL LYNCHING LAW

Reporter

Columbia, S. C., April 2.—(By A. N. P.)—A bill was introduced in the state legislature here Friday to repeal two provisions in the state constitution with reference to the liability of a county in which a lynching occurs to the legal representatives of the person lynched.

4-4-31

The measure was presented by W. P. Mason of Oconee County, where a strenuous effort is being made to force the county to pay $2,000 to the widow of Allen Green, who was lynched in that county several months ago. According to the law, a county is liable in the sum of $2,000 when a person is lynched in that county.

Oconee County was ordered to pay Mrs. Green that sum provided by the law, but had never complied with the order. Several reasons have been advanced for the non-payment of the judgment, and the attempt of Representative Mason to have his bill passed repealing the anti-lynching measure, is looked upon as the last stand of the county, which he represents, to avoid payment of this sum to Mrs. Green.

SUMPTER, S. C.
ITEM

MAR 27 1931

RELIEF FOR LYNCHERS

Oconee Representative Seeks Repeal of Penalty Law

Columbia, March 27.—(AP)—Under a bill introduced in the house today by W. P. Mason, Oconee, the law which requires a county in which a person is lynched to pay $2,000 to the slain person's dependents would be repealed.

It would require an amendment to the constitution.

The widow of Allen Green, negro who was lynched near Walhalla last spring is now suing Oconee county for $2,000 under the law. Mason said.

$2,000 AWARD IS NOT PAID VICTIM'S WIDOW

3-28-31

County Where Man Lynched Refuses

Norfolk Va.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—The State Supreme Court has been petitioned to force Oconee County to pay the $2,000 judgment received against it by Mrs. Corrie Green, whose husband, Allen Green, was lynched in the county, April 20, of last year.

Under the state law the family of a lynched man is entitled to $2,000 and this verdict was rendered in favor of Mrs. Green by the court on October 20, 1930. The county appealed the decision, but to no avail, and the matter stood as directed.

Recently it was learned that the money had not been paid the woman and an investigation was started. Following closely in the wake of the investigation a movement was launched by the attorneys for the woman and a group of public-spirited citizens to force the county to pay the judgment.

Mrs. Green and her supporters were told that the county supervisor, J. A. Page, had declared that no funds existed with which to pay the judgment; that the county treasurer and the county auditor respectively, W. W. West and Ralph M. Pike, maintained that they were without authority of law to levy and collect a tax for this purpose, and that the Oconee County legislative delegation had refused to make an appropriation for the judgment in the 1931 supply bill.

COLUMBIA, S. C
STATE

MAR 28 1931

WOULD REPEAL SECTION ON LYNCHING LIABILITY

Two provisions in the state constitution, with reference to the liability of a county in which a lynching occurs to the legal representatives of the person lynched, would be repealed under the terms of a bill introduced in the house yesterday by W. P. Mason, Oconee, and referred to the judiciary committee.

The measure provides that the question of the repeal of the two parts of the constitution be submitted to the voters of the state in the next general election.

Under present law, a county is liable in the sum of $2,000 when a person is lynched in that county. Some time ago the widow of Allen Green, lynched in Oconee county, brought action to recover $2,000. No provision for the payment of the money was made in the Oconee county supply bill and now the case has been taken to the state supreme court where decision is pending.

SOUTH CAROLINA COU'TY MUST PAY FOR LYNCHING

Herald-Commonwealth

STATE SUPREME COURT ORDERS OCONEE COUNTY TO PAY $2000 TO WIDOW OF MOB VICTIM.

5-23-31

Columbia, May 15.—Oconee county must pay $2,000 because a mob there took Allen Green, Walhalla Negro, from the hands of the county sheriff and lynched him, the state supreme court held today.

The court ordered J. A. Pace, Oconee supervisor to include the $2,000 item in the next appropriation bill for the county.

Baltimore, Md.

Green was lynched early last year after he had been accused of attacking a white woman.

Corrie Green, wife of the lynched victim, brought suit against W. W. West, treasurer; Ralph M. Pike, auditor, and Supervisor Pace for the $2,000. She secured a rule to show cause why they should not "be compelled by a writ of mandamus to levy a tax upon the taxable property of Oconee county, sufficient to pay the amount of a judgment of $2,00 plus cost and interest."

The conty officials replied they had no authority to levy a special tax for the purpose, and that the only funds on hand were specifically appropriated for other purposes.

Justice M. L. Bonham in his opinion on the Green proceedings declared the court has no right to compel a tax levy, but issued a writ of mandamus for the supervisor to place the $2,000 in the next appropriation bill. He pointed ot that a county is liable under the "lynching statute" for not less than $2,000."

The opinion included the stipula

was spent by all.

On Friday the Woman's Mission-

Anderson, S. C., Independent
Saturday, May 16, 1931

Oconee Must Pay For Lynching Of Negro

COLUMBIA, May 15.—Oconee county must pay $2,000 because a mob there took Allen Green, Walhalla negro, from the hands of the county sheriff and lynched him the state supreme court held today.

The court ordered J. A. Peace, Oconee supervisor, to include the $2,000 item in the next appropriation bill for the county.

Green was lynched early last year after he had been accused of attacking a white woman.

Corrie Green, wife of the lynched negro, brought suit against W. W. West, treasurer; Ralph M. Pike, auditor, and Supervisor Pace for the $2,000. She secured a rule to show cause why they should not "be compelled by a writ of mandamus to levy a tax upon the taxable property of Oconee county, sufficient to pay the amount of a judgment of $2,000 plus cost and interests."

The county officials replied they had no authority to levy a special tax for the purpose, and that the only funds on hand were specifically appropriated for other purposes.

Charlotte N. C. News
Friday, May 15, 1931

County Must Pay For Lynching Man

Columbia, S. C., May 15.—(AP)—Oconee County must pay $2,000 because a mob there took Allen Green, Walhalla negro, from the hands of the sheriff and lynched him, the State Supreme Court held today.

The court ordered J. A. Pace, Oconee supervisor, to include the $2,000 item in the next aproriation bill for the county.

Green was lynched early last year after he had been accused of attack on a white woman.

Seneca, S. C., Journal
Wednesday, May 20, 1931

LYNCHING COSTS COUNTY $2,000

Supreme Court Says Oconee Must Pay That Sum for Green Lynching.

Oconee county must pay $2,000 because a crowd of men took Allen Green from the hands of the county sheriff and shot him to death, the state supreme court held in an opinion handed down Friday.

The court ordered J. A. Pace, county supervisor, to include the $2,000 item in the next appropriation bill for the county.

Green was lynched early last year after he had been accused of an attack on a white woman.

Corrie Green, wife of the lynched negro, brought suit against W. W. West, treasurer; Ralph M. Pike, auditor, and Supervisor J. A. Pace for the $2,000. She secured a rule to show cause why they should not "be compelled by a writ of mandamus to levy a tax upon the taxable property of Oconee county, sufficient to pay the amount of a judgment of $2,000, plus costs and interests."

The county officers replied they had no authority to levy a special tax for the purpose, and that the only funds on hand were specifically appropriated for other purposes.

Justice M. L. Bonham in his opinion on the green proceedings declared the court has no right to compel a tax levy, but issued a writ of mandamus for the supervisor to place the $2,000 in the next appropriation bill. He pointed out that a county is liable under the "lynching statute" for not less than $2,000."

The opinion included the stipulation that interest must be paid from the date of the judgment until it was paid.

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching

3527

Journal & Guide

Norfolk Va

8-1-31

TO DRAFT MODEL ANTI-LYNCH LAW

University Of North Carolina Delegated To Frame Law To Be Proposed To Legislatures Of States Fo[illegible]ssage

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—A study of existing laws and procedures regarding lynching has been delegated to the University of North Carolina by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching with a view to drafting effective measures to combat the practice.

Meeting here last week in an executive session, members of the commission authorized the study and discussed reports made by the commission's staff experts who have made a study of 21 lynchings in 1930.

The study the Universit yof North Carolina will make, with its college of law serving as the investigating agency, is intended to reveal weaknesses in existing laws against lynching.

George F. Milton, white, of Chattanooga, chairman of the commission, said, "the study will enable the drafting of an effectiv anti-lynching law which can be adopted by various States.."

Other members of the commission are Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Nashville; Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina; Julian Harris of the Atlata Constitution; Dr. W. H. King, book editor of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church; Dr. W. J. McClothlin, of Greenville, S. ,C. president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. Monroe Work, statistician of the Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute; Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University; Benjamin F. Hubert, president Industrial College of Georgia, and Alex Spence, attorney of Dallas, Texas.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Wednesday, July 22, 1931

DIXIE GROUP TO GATHER ANTI-LYNCH LAW DATA

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., July 21. (AP)—A careful study into the existing laws and administrative procedures in regard to lynching was approved by members of the southern commission on the study of lynching at an executive conference here Monday. This study, which is to be made by the college of law of the University of North Carolina, is intended to develop points of weakness of existing legislation and administration.

The study "will enable the drafting of an effective anti-lynching law which can be adopted by various states," George F. Milton, chairman of the commission, stated.

During the conference here the members discussed the case studies made by staff experts of the commission of the 21 lynchings which occurred in 1930 and determined upon the date for the publication of the final report.

Members of the commission are Mr. Milton, chairman; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Nashville; Dr. Howard W. Odum, of the University of North Carolina; Julian Harris, of The Atlanta Constitution; Dr. W. H. King, book editor of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church; Dr. W. G. McGlothin, of Nashville, president of the Southern Baptist convention; Dr. Monroe Work, statistician of the Tuskegee institute; Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskeegee institute; Dr John Hope, president of Atlanta University; Benjamin F. Hubert, president, Industrial College of Georgia and Alex Spence, attorney, of Dallas Texas.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS

JUL 22 1931

Plan Study of Lynching Law

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Traveling four hundred miles across country, a lost dog in Canada recently found its way home.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
JOURNAL

JUL 22 1931

LYNCHING LAW

Topic Of Study By Law College, Commission's Plan.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 22/31

SOUTHERN COLLEGE TO STUDY LYNCHING

University of North Carolina to Seek Model Law to Curb Mob Action.

By the Associated Press.

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BRISTOL, TENN., HER.-COUR.
Wednesday, July 22, 1931

ANTI-LYNCH CONFERENCE STUDYS DIXIE LAWS

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KNOXVILLE, TENN., JOURNAL
Wednesday, July 22, 1931

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55

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ATLANTA (Georgia) CONSTITUTION
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Lynchings-1931

Tennessee.

3529

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

SHERIFF PROBES
~~SMITH LYNCHING~~

UNION CITY, Tenn., April 22.—(AP)—Sheriff Jack Hubbs said today the Obion county grand jury probably will investigate the lynching here Saturday of George Smith, young negr charged with attempted criminal as sault. 4-23-31

Sheriff Hubbs said he has identifie no members of the mob which hange the ~~negro in the courthouse~~ yard here

The ~~sheriff and District~~ Attorne John M. Drane said ~~no plans~~ for cal ing witnesses have been made. Th grand jury meets the first Monday i May.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS

APR 23 1931

Obion Lynching to Be Probed by Grand Jury

Union City, April 23.—(A. P.)—Sheriff Jack Hubbs said Wednesday the Obion county grand jury probably will investigate the lynching here Saturday of George Smith, young negro charged with attempted criminal assault.

Sheriff Hubbs said he has identified no members of the mob which hanged the negro in the courthouse yard here.

The sheriff and the district attorney, John M. Drane, said no plans for calling witnesses have been made. The grand jury meets the first Monday in May.

MEMPHIS, TENN
EVENING APPEAL

APR 20 1931

JURY MAY PROBE OBION LYNCHING

District Attorney Hints Investigation to Be Made of Union City Mob Violence.

UNION CITY, Tenn. —A grand jury investigation of the lynching of George Smith, 18-year-old negro attacker here Saturday, may be asked by John M. Drane, district attorney, he indicated today.

"While I haven't had an opportunity to investigate the lynching, Mr. Drane said at Dresden today, "we cannot overlook the outrage, and the grand jury may be asked to investigate the lynching."

Smith was taken from Sheriff Hubbs and lynched in the court yard after he was arrested in connection with an attack on a young Union City girl

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Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Thursday, April 23, 1931

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Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Virginia.

3531

Times
RICHMOND
VIRGINIA

APR 19 1931

Man Convicted In Mob Attack Awarded Writ

J. L. Hagood Sentenced Under Faulty Indictment, Va. Supreme Court Rules

J. L. Hagood, who was convicted in Mecklenburg County of being a member of a mob that beat Milburn T. Neal and was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary, was granted a writ of error yesterday by the State Supreme Court of Appeals. The court held that the indictment under which Hagood was found guilty of a violation of the Virginia lynch law lacked the certainty required by the Constitution and charged only an assault and battery under the common law.

The indictment states "That on or about May 21, 1930, in the said county of Mecklenburg and within the jurisdiction of this court, John L. Hagood, Joe Hagood, Archer Thompson, Elmo Ranes, Oscar Cleaton, G.G. Martin, Bernard Cleaton and Frank Martin, composing a mob, did unlawfully and feloniously commit an assault and battery upon Milburn T. Neal, without authority of law, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth."

According to the record of the case Hagood and others drove up to the house of Neal's mother and, calling young Neal out, drove him down the road about a mile and a quarter and there "beat him "unmercifully." Neal testified that the cause assigned for the beating was that he ran his wife away from home and put her in a Catholic home in Norfolk.

A boy of 21, Neal had been married only a short time when he was subjected to the whipping. He denied the charges against him and said that his wife had left home of her

Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

West Virginia

3535

FAIRMONT, W. VA
TIMES

DEC 11 1931

Three Brothers Held In Connection With Lewisburg Lynching

Two Negroes Taken Out of Greenbrier Jail and Hanged By Mob

GOVERNOR ORDERS FULL INVESTIGATION

Search For Members of Mob of 50 Masked Men Begun at Once

LEWISBURG, Dec. 10. (AP) — Under cover of darkness, a mob of about 50 heavily armed and masked men swept into Lewisburg in automobiles early today and lynched two negro prisoners from the cross arm of a telephone pole after storming the Greenbrier County jail and seizing their victims by force.

A few hours after the two negroes Tom Jackson, 48, and George Banks 26, were carried terror-stricken from the jail to their doom, three men all brothers, were committed to the same prison to be held for investigation in connection with the lynching.

The three brothers, R. E. Legg Jack Legg and Pete Legg, were ordered held for investigation by Prosecuting Attorney James H. White, who promised "the fullest investigation" into the lynching, which Governor William G. Conley at Charleston termed "a horrible thing."

The prosecuting attorney declined to discuss the basis for the arrest of the brothers, all of whom live at Quinwood, the home of Joseph H Myles, a constable, and Jack Brown for whose slaying the two negroes were recently indicted by a special grand jury. No charges have been filed against the Legg brothers.

White said he was considering asking for a special grand jury during the present term of circuit court to investigate the lynching but pointed out at the same time that another session of court will be held in January when the regular grand jury will be in session.

The trial of the two negroes originally had been scheduled for the present term of court but was continued until the January term upon motion of defense counsel to permit time for preparation of their defense.

The scene of the lynching was the brow of a slight rise in the Midland Trail, a through federal highway, about two miles west of Lewisburg Only one rope was used to swing the two negroes from the cross arm of the telephone pole which was somewhat shorter than the usual size. The rope was thrown across the cross arm and one end was tied about the neck of each of the victims. As they swung from the pole with their feet almost touching the ground, the negroes, clad only in their underwear, were riddled with hundreds of shots from rifles, shotguns and pistols. A half gallon of empty shells was picked up at the scene.

Methodical preparations apparently had been made for the lynching. Members of the mob had gath-

(Please turn to page seven)

ered at some designated spot and drove quietly to Lewisburg in about 5 automobiles, from which the license plates had been removed. All telephone lines serving the village were cut at the scene of the lynching but some out-of-town service was not interrupted through another routing of calls.

Surrounding the jail, members of the mob, all of them wearing makeshift masks with the exception of one man who had applied a heavy coat of talcum powder to hide his features, sent a delegation of about 10 of their number into the kitchen of the jail, a large room in the jail living quarters, which was unlocked.

M. A. Johnson, the night, jailer was in the basement attending the jail furnace at the time and Wallace Flint, the county jailer, was asleep in a room above the kitchen Each of them was attracted by the noise of the mob's entrance and went to the kitchen where they found a room full of armed and masked men and some of them in the jail corridor. Mrs. Flint accompanied her husband part way downstairs but she stopped midway on the open staircase when she beheld the scene in the kitchen.

Pointing pistols at the jailers the mob demanded Jackson and Banks when Flint asked them what they wanted. Flint said he had the keys and three of them with drawn pistols escorted him to the cell section and forced him to unlock the two cells in which the victims were confined awaiting trial. The half-clad negroes were carried to the waiting automobiles, which speeded out of Lewisburg as quietly as they entered to the outskirts of the town, where the night's work was completed at the cross arm of the telephone pole.

Immediately after the mob disappeared with their victims, the jailers sounded the alarm and posses were organized by State Police and Sheriff John H. Bowling. A short time later the bodies of the two negroes were found dangling from the telephone pole. The mob had diseappeared.

A score of state policemen under command of Lieutenant Frank H. Gibson, in charge of that district, was quickly mobilized at Lewisburg They were directed by Governor Conley to make "a very thorough investigation in order that the parties guilty of the lynching be brought to justice, and that the proper prosecution be made." The three arrests were made by the State Police later in the day.

"Such matters must not be tolerated in West Virginia," the governor said. "It is a deplorable thing, a horrible thing! Every good citizen who has the welfare and peace of the state at heart should aid in seeing that those guilty of the crime should be brought to justice promptly."

The West Virginia code defines lynching as murder and provides that every person participating in a mob of riotous assembage by which a person is put to death shall be guilty of murder, which is punishable by death on the gallows or life imprisonment at the discretion of the jury. The code also provides that the county in which a person charged with crime is lynched shall be subject to a forfeiture of $5,000 which may be recovered by appropriate action in the name of the personal representative of the person put to death.

Myles and Brown were shot on November 22 as they were leaving a negro dance at Leslie, near Rainelle, where the officer with Brown as a companion had gone to quiet revelry at the dance. Myles was killed instantly and Brown died the following day.

BRONX HOME NEWS

DEC 13 1931

Three Brothers Held in Lynching of Two Men

Three men were arraigned on murder charges in Lewisburg, W. Va., yesterday in connection with the lynching of Tom Jackson and George Banks, colored. They were R. E. Legg, Pete Legg and Jack Legg, brothers, all of Quinwood, W. Va. All three waived hearing and were held without bond for the January Grand Jury. Evidence against them was not disclosed. Prosecutor J. H. White said he expected other arrests in the near future.

BROOKLYN TIMES

DEC 13 1931

THREE ARRAIGNED IN LYNCHING CASE

All Waive Hearing and Are Held Without Bail.

Lewisburg, W. Va., Dec. 12.—Three men were arraigned on murder charges today in connection with the lynching of Tom Jackson and George Banks, colored, here yesterday. They were R. E. Legg, Pete Legg and Jack Legg, Quinwood, W. Va.

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Lynchings-1931

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

West Virginia

3536

THREE ARRESTS MADE IN WEST VIRGINIA LYNCHING

Governor of State Reported to Be Aroused Over Mob Murders

East Tennessee News

LEWISBURG, W. Va.—Three white men, all brothers. were arrested and arraigned on Saturday here on murder charges in connection with the lynching early Friday morning of Tom Jackson, 25, and George Banks, 27. The accused men are R. E., Pete and Jack Legg, who live in Quinnwood, W. Va. 12-24-31

Prosecutor J. H. White said that he expected other arrests in connection with the lynchings. The three men under arrest waived hearing and were held without bond for the January Grand Jury.

Following the receipt of a telegram from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, denouncing the duo lynching, T. G. Nutter of Charleston, a member of the association, reported to the New York headquarters of the association that Governor S. G. Conley, to whom the message was addressed, is fully aroused over the dastardly crime and is making a thorough-going investigation.

Jackson and Banks, the victims, garbed only in their underwear, were removed from the Greenbrier County Jail by a mob of nearly sixty men, driven in an automobile to the outskirts of the town, strung from a telephone pole and their bodies riddled with bullets. They had been accused in the murder of two white constables—Joseph Myles and Jack Brown—at Leslie on November 22.

The lynchings were the sixth since West Virginia was founded in 1863 and bringing the total for the current year to fifteen.

HELD IN MOB-DEATHS

Memphis

Three Men Charged With Murder For Lynching of Negroes.

LEWISBURG, W. Va., Dec. 12.—(AP)—Three men were charged with murder here today for the lynching of two negroes taken from the Greenbrier County Jail by a mob of 50 masked men Thursday. The men, Earl Legg, Pete Legg and Jack Legg, brothers, of Quinwood, waived a preliminary hearing and were held without bond.

12/13/31

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3 Arrests Made in West Va. Lynchings

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THREE HELD IN W. VA. LYNCHING WITHOUT BAIL

Baltimore Afro American

Brothers Confess to Participation in Mob that Hanged Two.

TO TEST LAW

12/19/31

Capehart Bill Exacts $5,000 from County.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — While Maryland's investigation into the lynching of Matthew Williams at Salisbury, Md., lagging, three men suspected of having participated in the lynching of Thomas Jackson, 45, and George Banks, 26, at Lewisburg, W.Va., are under arrest and are being held without bail on charges of murder.

Saturday afternoon the three brothers, who had been arrested earlier in the week for questioning, were arraigned before a justice of the peace on a charge of murder. The brothers, R. E., Pete and Jack Legg, all of Quinwood, were held without bail for the January term of Greenbrier county grand jury by Justice F. M. Arbuckle, before whom they waived preliminary examination.

State police said they had confessions from the men. Early in the evening they were removed to the Raleigh County jail at Beckley for safe keeping.

Lieutenant Frank Gibson, state police detachment, in whose custody the brothers were placed by Chief Robert Osborn of state police, admitted that each had given a statement concerning his knowledge of the lynchings, last Wednesday morning, of Tom Jackson and George Banks, who were held on charges of murdering Constable Joseph Myles and his deputy, Jack Brown, at Leewood. Each of the brothers admitted to Lieutenent Gibson that he participated in the lynchings and was a member of the mob.

Governor Talks

As soon as Governor William H. Conley heard of the lynchings he condemned the action of the mob in most severe terms. He said:

"I have asked state police to make a very thorough investigation in order that the parties guilty of the lynching be brought to justice, and the proper prosecution be made.

"Such matters must not be tolerated in West Virginia.

"It is a deplorable thing! A horrible thing! Every good citizen who has the welfare and peace of the state at heart should aid in seeing that those guilty of the crime should be brought to justice promptly."

The Governor repeated this statement to the officers of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, when waited on by T. G. Nutter, president., W. W. Sanders, vice-president, and E. L. Powell, a member of the executive committee, and Brown W. Payne, former president of the Beckley branch.

The local branch has been active in the investigation and has been in close touch with state and county authorities and has also advised with the national offic

State police aresaid to have the names of the 60 masked men. More arrests are expected this week.

Officers Drunk

It was learned from the investigation that for some purpose constable Myles and his deputy visited a dance sponsored by colored citizens of Leslie on November 22.

They called Jackson out and some argument ensued and it is reported that Myles drew his gun and his flashlight and held them on Jackson while Brown beat him. It is said that both officers were very drunk. A gun was fired and Myles was killed and Brown was wounded and died very shortly thereafter It was for this supposed crime that Jackson and Banks were recently indicted by the grand jury of Greenbrier county.

When the case was called some days ago for trial, the attorney representing them secured a continuance and this seemed to have provoked the friends of the slain officers and threats were made of lynching but no one considered them seriously until Wednesday morning when the bodies of Jackson and Brown were found swinging from a telegraph pole about three miles from Lewisburg.

To Test Capehart Law

The State has a drastic anti-lynch law passed by the legislature in 1921 known as the Capehart law. This law was pushed through the legislature by Harry J. Capehart of McDowell County and T. G. Nutter of Kanawha County, who were then members of the legislature, assisted by W. W. Sanders, T. Edward Hill and other prominent citizens. One section of the law provides:

"The county in which such person charged with a crime has been taken from a state, county or municipal officer, and lynched and put to death, shall be subject to a forfeiture of five thousand dollars, which may be recovered by appropriate action therefor, in the name of the personal representative of the person put to death, for the use of his dependent family or estate."

There are other stringent provisions of the law which make the offense punishable as a case of murder.

MURDER CHARGES FILED IN LEWISBURG LYNCHING

Three Brothers Whose Car Was Found Near Where 2 Negroes Were Hanged Are Accused.

12/13/31

LEWISBURG, W. Va., Dc. 12 (AP). —Three men were charged with murder here today for the lynching of two negroes taken from the Greenbrier County Jail by a mob of fifty masked men Thursday.

The men, Earl Legg, Pete Legg and Jack Legg, brothers, of Quinwood, waived a preliminary hearing and were held without bond.

They were arrested a few hours after the mob took the negroes, Tom Jackson, 48, and George Banks, 26, from the jail, hanged them from the cross-arm of a telephone pole and riddled their body with bullets.

After several hours of questioning the men were placed in jail, where they were held until today on investigation charges.

No evidence was presented when the men were arraigned before Justice of the Peace F. M. Arbuckle. Prosecuting Attorney James A. White, however, after the formal charges of murder had been lodged, said their arrests were based on discovery in their automobile, stalled near the lynching site, of a shotgun and a number of shells similar in type to some found beneath the telephone pole.

Lynching Of Pair May Cost West Virginians $10,000.00

LEWISBURG, W. Va., Dec 17 —(ANP) County officials here are considering seriously whether Greenbier County may not be penalized to the amount of $10,000 as a result of the lynching here December 10th, of Tom Jackson and George Banks, 2 youths in their twenties.

12-25-31

West Virginia has a statute it was pointed out which provides that any county in which a lynching occurs shall forfeit $5,000 to the heirs of the victims. Col. R. C. Stokes who had defended the boys when they were in court said preparations were under way to institute suit against Greenbier for $5,000 for each death

Governor Promises Vigorous Action Against Lynchers

Savannah Journal
12-23-31
Savannah, Ga

New York, Dec. 18—Vigorous action for the prosecution and punishment of the lynchers of two colored men in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, is promised in a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from Governor William G. Conley. In the meantime, West Virginia Branches of the N. A. A. C. P. are pressing for the enforcement of the State anti-lynching law, which provides for a payment of $5000 to the family of each lynching mob victim, and a special grand jury has been called to deal with the case of three alleged lynchers who have confessed their participation in the crime.

In his letter to the N. A. A. C. P. Governor Conley states that as soon as he heard of the lynching he had instructed State Police to makeed a thorough investigation to bring the guilty parties to justice. He continues:

"Three of the persons participating in the lynching have been arrested, and I am advised have admitted they participated in it. The court also advises that a special grand jury will be impanele. All officers and all good citizens have been called upon to see that the guilty are brought to justice."

T. G. Nutter President of the Charleston N. A. A. C. P. writes that in a personal interview "the Governor was very severe in his condemnation of the lynching and stated that he would leave no stone unturned in prosecuting every participant in the crime no matter who he might be" Mr. Nutter has communicated with the Greenbrier County prosecuting officer and other influnetial persons and says: "I shall run the things down and will stay behind the officers and see that they prosecute the case with vigor."

The arrested men are three brothers, Eail, Pete and Jack Legg, in whose automoble were found shells similar to some found at the scene of the lynching.

Drunken Policeman Involved

Acording to accounts of the trouble which brought about the lynching, sent to the N. A. A. C. P. from a member in Marfrance, West Va., a drunken policeman and a white bootlegger were the cause of the initial disturbance. The report states that the police officer accompanied by the bootlegger, caused a fight at a dance in Leslie, West Virginia. Following the fight there was shooting and the officer, Joe Myles, was killed, and the bootlegger wounded dying two days later. It is said two pints of liquor were found on the body of the policeman. The report states that the shooting with which the two lynched color-

On October 19, the anniversary of

ed men were charged, was actually done by a white man.

FAIRMONT, W. VA
WEST VIRGINIAN
DEC 1 1 1[illegible]

NO NEW ARRESTS IN LEWISBURG DUAL LYNCHING

Officers Are Scouring Mountains In Search Of Evidence Against Raiders

LEWISBURG, Dec. 11 (By the Associated Press).—The mountains of Greenbrier County were searched today by state and county officers seeking evidence as to the identity of the members of the mob that lynched two negro prisoners here yesterday after storming the Greenbrier County jail.

The oficers hoped to find some weapons that may have been discarded by the mob after the two negroes, Tom Jackson, 48, and George Banks, 26, were hanged from the cross arm of a telephone pole and their bodies riddled with bullets.

There was a possibility, officers believed, that any weapons found might be identified by pecularities shown on empty shells among the half gallon of them picked up at the scene of the lynching.

The officers also kept a sharp lookout for automobiles which bore evidence of having been driven yesterday without license plates over the slush, muddy roads that tinted backs of all cars a uniform brown.

Possibilities of a special grand jury investigation were seen by Prosecuting Attorney James A. White, who said he had such action under consideration and that the lynching would be investigated to "the fullest extent." White, however, pointed out that a new term of court would be opened in January and that a grand jury would be in session then.

Three men, brothers from Quinwood, R. E. Legg, Pete Legg, and Jack Legg, already have been arrested in connection with the lynching.

W. VA. LYNCHERS ADMIT THEIR GUILT TO POLICE

Whip, 2-26-31
Chicago, Ill

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 23.—Three brothers, R. E., Peter and Jack Legg are in jail here, held without bail, on a charge of being participants in the mob which lynched Tom Jackson and George Banks last Wednesday. When arraigned before the court a few days ago, they waived preliminary examination and now will await the action of the Breenbrier county grand jury. The quick work of the police in rounding up these mountaineers was the result of a sharp and drastic order coming from Gov. William H. Conley's office that the perpetators of this barbarous practice of America's southland be brought to justice.

The trio was removed to the Raleigh county jail Monday for safe keeping and according to the state police they have all openly admitted and have signed confessions that they participated in the actual killing of the men at Lewisburg.

Further information revealing the intense activity on the part of the state police was to the effect that they have obtained a list of names of more than sixty men who took part in the lynching. The arrest of a large group is now being predicted by those close to the police authorities.

Here is Governor Conley's order following the lynching:

"I have asked the state police to make a very thorough investigation in order that the parties guilty of the lynching be brought to justice and the proper prosecution be made. Such matters must not be tolerated in West Virginia. It is a deplorable thing! A horrible thing! Every good citizen who has the welfare and peace of the state at heart should aid in seeisg that those guilty of the crime should be brought to justice promptly."

Lynchings-1931
Legislation Relating to.

3407

DEMOCRAT
Princeton Ind.
AUG 4 1931

MOB LAW AND ITS PENALTIES

An act passed by the 1931 legislature, prompted by the mob which broke into the jail at Marion, Ind., last year, and executed two colored men for an alleged murder assault, has particular bearing on every county and Sheriff in the state of Indiana.

The law will be found on page 245 of the 1931 acts and it provides for the removal of a sheriff or deputy in any county who shall suffer to be lynched any prisoner in their custody.

The next section provides for reinstatement of the Sheriff, or his deputy, in case either of them are able to present satisfactory evidence to the Governor, that they performed every duty expected to prevent such lynching.

The next section of the law provides the penalty for any person or persons composing or being one of the mob, and that they be guilty of a felony and shall be liable to imprisonment for not less than three, nor more than ten years.

Section 4 of the act provides that any "spouse, lineal heirs, parents or adopted children of any such other person, who, before the loss of life, were dependent for support upon any other person who shall suffer death, by lynching at the hands of a mob, in any county, city or town of this state, may recover from the county, city or town where the lynching occurred, for injuries sustained by reason of the loss of life or such person, a sum of not to exceed ten thousand dollars and not less than five thousand dollars.

"Section 5. Any person who is assaulted and lynched by a mob and who is injured but does not suffer death may have an action against the county where such injury occurs and may recover a determinate sum not to exceed $10,000.

Section six provides for the recovery of damage to any property destroyed or injured as a result of a mob in the county, in a similar manner.

"Section 7. That any collection of individuals, five or more in number, assembled for the unlawful purpose of offering violence to the person or property of anyone supposed to have been guilty of violation of the law, or for the purpose of exercising correctional powers, or regulative powers over any person or persons by violence, and without lawful authority, shall be regarded and designated as a "mob" or "riotous assemblage."

The term "injured" for the purpose of this act, shall include any injury to property or person, temporary or permanent.

During the past few weeks, Gibson county has been the scene of at least one mob, in the assault of 17 miners who were going to work at Liberty mine, near Francisco, on the morning of June 8th, by what was said to be 50 men, with clubs.

Since then, the property of Somerville mine No. 2, was blown up by dynamite, and whether this was done by five or more men has not as yet been determined.

The law went into effect June 30th, according to the Governor's proclamation and, of course, the Liberty mine assault would not come under the statute, but, if the owners can prove that five or more men were responsible for the Somerville mine dynamiting, that may be a different proposition, according to attorneys who have commented on the statute.

Fourteen or more states of the United States have practically this same law and in a recent decision by the United States supreme court, it has been held constitutional. The court in passing on the law said in substance:

"Communities, so lax in the enforcement of the law and maintenance of order, the counties should be held for injuries to men and damage to property."

In the past, there has been entirely too much "winking" at unlawful assemblages in the state of Indiana, and, as a result, much property has been destroyed and not a few men injured. Law enforcement officials of the state, counties and cities have been more or less responsible for this condition, and taxpayers will look upon this laxness with decidedly more concern than formerly.

The first time a county or city of the state is called on to pay a sizeable damage suit, as a result of some men assaulting other men, or damaging property, where the guilt can be placed, as required by the law, that community is going to wake up as never before.

Men and corporations are not going to invest money in properties, of communities where lawlessness is permitted to reign or go unpunished, and the surest way of putting a st to lessness is prompt and just punishment of the guilty.

"ANTI - LYNCHING." BILL

Representative Chamlee Introduces Measure at Nashville.

12/3/31
Memphis
Commercial
Appeal

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 2.—"An anti-lynching" bill was introduced in the House today by Representative George Chamlee, Jr., of Hamilton, a subject far removed from the province of governor's call.

The measure provides for the payment by the county of $1,000 to $5,000 to the "lynchee" or his dependents in event of injury or death. For a beating or serious injury, the victim can recover $1,000, for permanent disability, $5,000 and a like amount to his dependents or nearest relative in case he dies.

While the county would be obligated for damages, it may recover from any member of the mob or may issue a special levy to pay for the lynching spree.

A mob is described in the bill as "a collection of people assembled for an unlawful purpose and intending to do damage or injury to any one or pretending to exercise correctional power by violence."

Any act of violence is construed as a "lynching" in the language of the bill. "Any person present with hostile intent" is a member of a mob.

Representative Chamlee's father, George Chamlee, Sr., is a Chattanooga lawyer defending six negro youths condemned to death in Alabama for an assault upon two girls in a freight car. He is retained by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Wichita Falls, Tex.
TIMES
JUL 1 2 1931

THE ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURE

The death of Congressman George Scott Graham of New York may result, indirectly, in bringing to a head the move for a federal anti-lynching law. Congressman Dyer of St. Louis, author of the anti-lynching bill, is now the ranking Republican member of the house judiciary committee, so that if the Republicans control the next house, he will be in position to urge action on his bill. Southern members of congress are viewing the possibility with some concern.

Meanwhile, figures compiled by Tuskegee institute show that there were relatively few lynchings in the first six months of 1931. Only five were reported. In the same period, peace officers gave effective protection to 30 persons threatened by mob violence, and in some instances had to offer physical resistance to would-be lynchers.

We may be very sure that if 1930's ugly record of mob violence is repeated, the demand for federal anti-lynching legislation will become so strong that it will be difficult for congress to resist it. The South's duty is to show its ability to curb mob violence, to demonstrate to the country that there is no need of federal legislation on the subject.

Introduces Anti-Lynching Measure Down In Tennessee

Courier 12-12-31
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 10.—(A. N. P.)—An effect of communist enterprise in the South was discerned here Wednesday in the introduction of an anti-lynching bill into the House of Representatives by Representative George Chamlee, Jr., of Hamilton.

Representative Chamlee is the son of George Chamlee of Chattanooga. Mr. Chamlee of Chattanooga is a lawyer who has been retained through the interest of the International Labor Defense, a communist organization, to act in behalf of the eight boys sentenced to die at Scottsboro, Ala., for the alleged commission of rape upon two white girls.

The measure introduced by the junior Chamlee provides for the payment by the county of $1,000 to $5,000 to the person lynched or their dependents in case of injury or death. For beating or serious injury, the victim can recover $1,000, for permanent disability, $5,000, and a like amount to his dependents in case he dies.

While the county would be obligated for damages, it may recover from any member of the mob or may issue a special levy to pay for the lynching.

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URGES HOOVER TO BACK ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Negro Delegation Tells President 15th Amendment Needs a Law to Force Equal Rights

N.Y. Times 12/1/31

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—A delegation of Negroes representing the National Equal Rights League called on President Hoover today and urged him to give his active support to anti-lynching legislation by the nexo Congress. They also lodged a protest against political discrimination against Negroes in the Southern

12/1/31

The President was told that the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, designed to give Negroes equal social and political rights, needed an enforcing act similar to the Volstead law, which was passed to make the Eighteenth Amendment effective.

According to William. M. Trotter of Boston, who headed the delegation, the President was sympathetic to their pleas, but suggested that the proposals be taken to Congress. The rPesident, he added, was not prepared to commit himself on the proposed anti-lynohing law.

The President was also asked to issue an Executive order abolishing the practice of "race segregation" in various government departments.

"The result of this segregation and general discrimination," said Trotter, "is the development of a permanent caste system in the United States. The effect is to make us known as the American untouchables."

"ANTI - LYNCHING" BILL

Commercial Appeal

Representative Chamlee Introduces Measure at Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 2.—"An anti-lynching" bill was introduced in the House today by Representative George Chamlee, Sr., of Hamilton, a subject far removed from the province of governor's call.

12-3-31

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While the county would be obligated for damages, it may recover from any member of the mob or may issue a special levy to pay for the lynching spree.

A mob is described in the bill as "a collection of people assembled for

Memphis Tenn

New York Evening Journal

Bronx Section

NOV 11 1931

URGE FEDERAL LYNCH LAW

Denouncing the lynching of Negroes in the South, and urging the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law, leading figures of the Negro race in Harlem today acclaimed the report of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching as a great step forward.

Unanimous in their praise for the investigation of the Southern Commission, uptown Negro leaders declared that the Commission's findings will greatly aid their long uphill fight against lynching.

Among those who urge a Federal anti-lynching law are Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and George W. Harris, former Alderman of the Twenty-first A. D.

Others who urge immediate "spiritual" compromise in order to stamp out lynching include the Rev. Hutchins Bishop, pastor of St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, the wealthiest Negro church in the world; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and James H. Hubert, executive secretary of the Urban League.

"USED AS ALIBI."

"A desperate effort has been made by Negro leaders for the past generation to focus attention upon the evil and hypocrisy of lynching, which has long been used as an alibi," said Harris.

"Lynching is an instrument to cover the masses of the Negro labor class in the South," he continued. "It's apparent that the coming Congress won't have the courage to pass the

Anti-Lynching bill, introduced some years ago by Congressman Dyer of Missouri. Congress has continually pussyfooted on the problems, particularly the Democratic Congressmen.

"There must be a revamping of the feeling toward the Negroes in the South if the lynching is to be brought to a stop."

PRAISES BOARD'S WORK.

Walter White, who has carried on an organized study lynching problem for 30 y

olled the work of the Southern Commission, which found, it reported, that 13 of the 21 persons lynched last year were innocent of any crime.

"This investigation will serve an immediate purpose, I am sure," White said. "Through its report to the press the right-minded public should be aroused. It has given an impetus and vigor to our fight to stamp out the lynching, which, since the inception of the economic stress, has increased throughout the South.

"I have noticed that it is most difficult to stamp out lynching in the States of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. I dc not charge that these States are incompetent to handle the problem, but unless there is an immediate decrease the Federal Government must step in. Our organization has supported the Dyer bill since its introduction—now we must turn to the comme sense and sympathy of the white people throughout the country."

BLAMES POLITICS.

In regard to offenses for which lynchings occurred in 1930, the Southern Commission reports:

"One man was lynched solely because he had offended political opponents and another to prevent his appearance as a witness in a serious court case against white men."

The Rev. Hutchins Bishop, pastor of St. Phillip's Church, in denouncing lynching, said:

"I have authoritatively heard that a fine, young Negro woman, while driving through Tennessee a few weeks ago, was involved in an automobile accident. Her death occurred soon afterward mainly because the physician in the town where she was injured, a white man, refused to give her aid.

WAITS ON GOVERNMENT.

"The lynching problem, horribly unjust, can never be righted in effective fashion until the government takes hold. The Dyer bill has been defeated previously. I don't know when such an effective bill can be passed, because the game of politics is a lengthy one.

"There are southern people who are already aroused, both white and negro, but they are in the minority. The sense of fineness and righteousness in the North must speak out."

Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, reiterated the remarks made by the other Harlem leaders.

SEX DISREGARDED.

All emphatically agreed with the Southern commission's findings that fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1

have been accused of attacks upon white women. Said White:

"We find, in investigating, that Southerners, both Whites and Negroes, show absolute unsoundness in connecting the sex crime problem with the person who is to be, or has been, lynched."

Further findings of the commission, of which George F. Milton is chairman, are:

The claim that lynchings are necessary because courts do not convict Negroes for their crimes is fallacious.

Although mob leaders can be identified without difficulty, Grand Jury indictments are seldom brought against them.

There is a direct relation between lack of education, low economic status and prevalence of lynching.

Lynchings-1931
Legislation Relating to.

3408

3408

MISSOURI SHOULD PASS ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

The people of Missouri, through the present session of the State Legislature, have an unusual opportunity to give this old state a big boost in the eyes of the more civilized people of the world by enacting a law which will make it hard for a reoccurrence of lawlessness such as took place at Maryville a short time ago.

Lawlessness, particularly of the semi-savage sort, doesn't do the people of any state any good. There is no good purpose to be served by such. In states where the people are ignorant and superstitious, you will find that lynching and mob violence are more prevalent than in the states where the people are more highly civilized. For an instance, there are more lynchings in Georgia than there are in Massachusetts: there are also more lynchings—burnings in Texas than in New York. It will be found that the people in Georgia and Texas are a backward people. Illiteracy is much higher in these states than in the others mentioned. The farther North we look, the less lynching and mob violence we see.

Argus 1-30-31

Of course, Missouri, a border state, between the North and South, has taken on some of the habits, customs, civilization and religion of both North and South. Everybody knows that lynching is a product of the South, and a by-product of slavery. Will Missouri continue to be classed as a southern state in the eyes of the world? The South today, while enjoying the benefits of being a part of the United States, in spirit is in open rebellion against the constitution of the United States.

St. Louis, Mo.

Hence, her statesmen are not recognized as men from other states. And while there is seldom a public utterance in governmental affairs to the effect, yet it is understood that lynching, jim-crowism, disfranchisement, ignorance and superstition all leave an odium on the statesmen and the people from those states. These things tell what the people are. It is hardly presumed that in any state where all of this nonsense and foolishness is prevalent, her people are capable of self-government.

In the face of the recent lynching-burning at Maryville, let the state act quickly to restore its good name among other civilized communities and people, by bringing to trial the leaders of the mob which ruthlessly murdered Raymond Gunn.

To whitewash, pass the buck, make excuses and offer alibis on the part of the law enforcement officers of the state does not in any way help the state nor the people in the local community. By so doing the state gets a lower rank among civilized communities; and the people of Nodaway County are encouraged in crime.

TENNESSEE'S ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

East Tenn. News

Knoxville Tenn.
1-29-31

Echoes of the constructive program launched by Tennessee's effective Inter-racial Commission that held its meeting in Nashville less than a fortnight ago, are heard following the prompt presentation of bills before the state's legislative bodies, designed to put a stop to the lynch evil. The supporters of this important measure headed by Dr. Charles Clark, chairman of the Inter-racial Commission and other outstanding white leaders indicate a fine interest in humanity in view of their untiring efforts to have this bill drafted and so promptly placed before the legislature.

Tennessee is already in the lead among southern states as concerns progress along many lines and with this most recent evidence of determination to support law and order and protect the rights of all citizens regardless as to race, our state takes another forward step that places it in a favorable limelight. It is hoped that our senate and the lower house will readily realize the value of such a law and that the bill will have their unanimous support.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
Friday, February 6, 931

Anti-Lynching Bill Commended

Measure Introduced By Senator Lawrence Favored By Mrs. Bost, Head Of Welfare Department.

Gazette Bureau,
Sir Walter Hotel

RALEIGH, Feb. 5—Approval of the general principles of the anti-lynching bill recently introduced in the legislature by Senator Lawrence, of Hertford county, was expressed today by Mrs. W. T. Bost, commissioner of public welfare. The bill would require officers of the law to remove all prisoners charged with capital crimes or attempted rape to the State prison or another county's jail for safe keeping.

"Such a law should go a long way towards preventing lynchings," said Mrs. Bost.

"The State was proud of the fact that for nine years there had not occurred a single lynching. We felt that North Carolina had outgrown this barbarism. Then, last summer a man was lynched down near Tarboro. The whole nation was told that North Carolina was again to be numbered among the states where mob violences occur.

"Such an event is not taken in a spirit of resignation by North Carolinians. We believe that mob violence can, and must be prevented. North Carolina in its thinking no longer tolerates mob violence but believes that the orderly processes of the law should be allowed to take their course. It commends those officers of the law who thwart a mob in its efforts to perpetrate a lynching.

"It would be a timely precaution for the State to make to require all officers of the law to remove into safe surroundings those prisoners accused of crimes which might incite mob violence."

WILMINGTON, N. C.
STAR

FEB 1 - 1931

TENNESSEE'S ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

(Asheville Citizen)

Tennessee, if bills which have been introduced in both houses of the state legislature are adopted, will be properly equipped to deal with one phase of the lynching problem.

Within ten days after a lynching the district attorney-general, under the proposed Tennessee law, would file ouster proceedings against the officer in charge of the prisoner at the time of the lynching on the ground that the taking of the prisoner from his custody was a presumption of negligence. The officer would have the opportunity to resist the allegations at his trial. If he won a favorable decision the officer would be reinstated regardless of whether an appeal was taken.

Governor Richards, of South Carolina, after four years' experience as chief executive, gave it as his opinion, in his retiring message the other day, that lynchings could be done away with entirely if the sheriffs and other officers of the law could be held to account by the governor. We believe that this is pretty close to the truth. The Tennessee anti-lynching bill is a sound measure. When an officer of the law allows his prisoner to be mobbed the presumption unquestionably exists that he has failed utterly in his duty

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Jews Refuse to Indorse Lynch Law

Negro World
1-7-31

New York

PHILADELPHIA. — Pointing out the failure of the prohibition law as showing that no federal law could be enforced in states where people were not in sympathy with it, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations voted down a proposal to indorse the anti-lynching bill now pending in congress. The proposal to indorse the bill was made by Milton Alexander of Detroit. He said individual states had made no progress to curb lynching.

DE PRIEST TO INTRODUCE ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Representative Oscar De Priest, Republican, of Illinois, announced Monday that he plans to introduce an anti-lynching bill on the first day of the next session of Congress.

Mr. De Priest stated that Representative James M. Beck, Republican, of Illinois, former Solicitor General of the United States and Ambassador to Great Britain, will draft the bill and will assist him in steering it through the House.

HERALD
Albany, Ga.

FEB 5 1931

MACON NEWS ON ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION.

Revival of agitation for the passage of the Dyer anti-lynching bill in the national Congress is probable as the result of mob murders in Missouri and North Dakota. The Southern states have staved off for years this proposal for federal intervention in state law enforcement affairs but last year's bad record in this section and now the lynchings in the North will make the fight harder than ever unless something definite and drastic is done by the states.

Tennessee is showing the way. A bill designed to prevent lynchings has passed first readings in both the houses of the Tennessee legislature and its supporters are confident of its enactment into law. The measure provides for the automatic suspension of any peace officer from whose custody a prisoner may be taken by a mob, and it is made the duty of the attorney general of the state to follow the suspension with proceedings for the dismissal from office of the suspended official. In the trial of the case, the lynching will be considered prima facie evidence of willful neglect of duty. It is provided, however, that if the defendant can produce evidence to offset the presumption of guilt, he may be reinstated.

PROPOSED MOB LAW CHANGE KILLED IN HOUSE GIVEN NEW LIFE

Recorder
2-21-31

State Legislature Suspends Rules And Reconsiders Action Of Tuesday On Motion S. T. Galloway— Measure Provides For Immediate Removal Of Sheriff Of Affected County

Indianapolis

The anti-lynching bill which passed the second reading in the Indiana general assembly Wednesday of last week, only to be killed on its third reading has come to life again in the house.

A motion Wednesday by Representative F. S. Galloway calling upon the house to reconsider its action in turning down the measure had the effect of reviving the measure for future consideration.

The Watson-Galloway anti-lynching measure for which not a single Republican has voted is back in the house in its original form.

Representative Galloway, impelled by an honest conviction that he is right in trying to put some real teeth in Indiana's law against lynching is conspicuously before the people as a particularly determined fighter for the passage of the bill of which he is a proponent.

Late Tuesday, Marion County's representatives were noticeably indignant over the indefinite postponement of the measure.

Numbered among the staunch friends of the bill are Priddy, Rester and Wiess.

The "anti-lynching" bill provides for immediate removal of the sheriff in any county in which a lynching occurs, permitting a hearing for reinstatement before the Governor.

The bill also legalized action for damages and provides persons in mob inflicting violence are guilty of a felony, punishable by indeterminate sentence not exceeding ten years or less than three.

Delph L. McKesson (Marshal), Democratic floor leader made the motion to postpone the measure indefinitely.

He declared such laws are unenforcable if the temper of the people is against them. There is a law now on the statute books, which provides almost a similar penalty as in this bill and it has not been enforced.

"Attorney-General James Ogden attempted to kid the public into believing he would punish leaders and members of the mob that lynched two Negroes in Marion, Aug. 7," declared Weiss.

"He began his prosecutions by publishing far and wide the names of the men he was seeking and they fled to the four corners of the earth."

Representative from Lake, Allen, Vigo and Vanderburgh counties voted with the solid Marion county delegation against killing the bill.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., NEW
Friday, January 30, 1931

~~Wise Anti-Lynching Bill~~

A BILL to curb the crime of lynching has been introduced in both branches of the General Assembly. It is indorsed by the Tennessee Interracial Co-operation Committee. We commend it to the legislators and the public.

In the form of an amendment to the ouster bill of 1915, the measure would provide that any officer who has in custody the victim of the mob at the time of lynching, or who is charged with the duty of protecting the prisoner, shall immediately be suspended from all official duties, including the right of compensation, until an official inquiry has been held.

The inquiry will take the form of an ouster hearing, since the bill also provides that it is the mandatory obligation of the attorney-general of the State to file ouster proceedings against the official, who will customarily be the sheriff.

Some intimations that such action may be too severe on the sheriffs or other officers entrusted with protecting prisoners from mobs are not well founded. The bill expressly provides that the ouster proceedings shall be filed within ten days after the lynching has occurred, and furthermore, that the officer is automatically reinstated if, at the ouster hearing, it is proved that he was not guilty of neglect of duty.

A review of the alarming number of lynchings which have placed a dark blot on the South during the past eighteen months shows that in all too many of the cases officers were inexcusably negligent and, at times, even seemingly connived in the outrages. It is the sworn duty of an officer to protect the life of his prisoner against mob action, even at the risk of his own life. When a prisoner is taken from him and lynched, that officer has failed in his duty. The bills now in the Tennessee Legislature provide that, if the failure of duty was unavoidable on his part, he will lose only a few days during suspension.

Of all lynching bills which have been devised, this seems to us among the fairest. The Dyer bill and other similar measures proposed in Congress were more drastic, usually providing automatic fines on counties in which lynchings occurred.

The South is able and willing to eradicate the shocking crime of lynching. It needs no Federal assistance. If the Tennessee Legislature adopts the bills, as we feel certain it will, the irresponsible persons who join in mobs will be influenced against such action, for they will know that the agencies of law and order will not be supine and indifferent, as they have been all too often in the past.

The bill will prevent the indifference of officials, indifference which has permitted more lynchings in the South than any other one factor.

Lynchings are rare in Tennessee. There may never be another one. The passage of the anti-lynching bills in the General Assembly will go a long way towards making the chances of mob outrages more remote than they have ever been in this State before. We urge the passage of the measures without delay

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WINSTON SALEM, N. C.
JOURNAL

JAN 30 1931

TENNESSEE'S ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

(Asheville Citizen)

Tennessee, if bills which have been introduced in both houses of the state legislature are adopted, will be properly equipped to deal with one phase of the lynching problem.

Within ten days after a lynching the District Attorney-General, under the proposed Tennessee law, would file ouster proceedings against the officer in charge of the prisoner at the time of the lynching on the ground that the taking of the prisoner from his custody was a presumption of negligence. The officer would have the opportunity to resist the allegations at his trial. If he won a favorable decision the officer would be reinstated regardless of whether an appeal was taken.

Governor Richards, of South Carolina, after four years' experience as chief executive, gave it as his opinion, in his retiring message the other day, that lynchings could be done away with entirely if the sheriffs and other officers of the law could be held to account by the governor. We believe that this is pretty close to the truth. The Tennessee anti-lynching bill is a sound measure. When an officer of the law allows his prisoner to be mobbed the presumption unquestionably exists that he has failed utterly in his duty.

Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
Thursday, February 5, 1931

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS APPROVED

By Commissioner Public Welfare; Should Decrease Crime.

Raleigh, Feb. 5.—Approval of the general principles of the anti-lynching bill recently introduced in the General Assembly by Senator Lawrence of Hertford, was expressed today by Mrs. W. T. Bost, commissioner of public welfare.

The bill would require officers of the law to remove all prisoners charged with capital crimes or attempted criminal assault to the state prison or another county's jail for safekeeping.

"Such a law should go a long way towards preventing lynching," Mrs. Bost said.

"The state was proud of the fact that for nine years there had not occurred a single lynching. We felt that North Carolina had outgrown this barbarism. Then, last summer a man was lynched down near Tarboro. The whole nation was told that North Carolina was again to be numbered among the states where mob violences occur.

"Such an event is not taken in a spirit of resignation by North Carolinians. We believe that mob violence can, and must be prevented. North Carolina in its thinking no longer tolerates mob violence but believes that the orderly processes of the law should be allowed to take their course. It commends those officers of the law who thwart a mob in its efforts to perpetuate a lynching.

"It would be a timely precaution for the state to require all officers of the law to remove into safe surroundings those prisoners accused of crimes which might incite mob violence."

Indiana Democrats Pass State Anti-Lynch Bill

[illegible] 3-6-31

NEW YORK—By a vote of 84 to 1, the one opposing vote being that of a republican, the democrats of the Indiana house of representatives passed a state anti-lynching bill, following speeches and conferences there by William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

An interesting political situation is created in that state, reports Mr. Pickens, by reason of the fact that the house is democratic and the state senate republican. The democratic house having passed the anti-lynching bill, it remains to be seen what the republican senate does with it.

N. C. SENATE PASSES ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

3-14-21

Washington
D C

Raleigh, N.C., March 10.—(By ANP)—The anti-lynching bill introduced by Senator Lawrence of Hartford, was passed here last week and provides that sheriffs imprison persons charged with capital crimes in counties other than where the crime is committed.

N. C. SENATE PASSES ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

[illegible] 3-6-31

RALEIGH, N. C.—(ANP) — The anti-lynching bill introduced by Senator Lawrence of Hertford was passed last week, and provides that sheriffs imprison persons charged with capital crimes in counties other than where the crime is committed.

Lynchings - 1931

Legislation Relating to.

3409

GOVERNOR CAULFIELD VETOES ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Argus

It came as a great surprise to us when we learned that Governor Caulfield had attached his veto to the anti-lynching bill recently passed by the Missouri legislature.

In his veto, the governor stated that the bill was inadequate to do the thing for which it was intended. This point raised by the governor, we confess, is highly technical to say the least; and we are of the opinion that the governor and Attorney-general Shartel have been working overtime ever since the passage of the bill to find some loophole whereby the governor could do just what he did when he vetoed the bill in question. If the bill was inadequate, our comment is it was better than nothing. In fact, it was the best the state of Missouri has ever had. Then, too, if the governor was interested in an anti-lynching bill, why didn't he sign the measure and let time tell the story of its inadequacy?

What we would like to know is what interest has the governor taken in any sort of law for mob violence in the state? He was petitioned, telegraphed, and special committees called on him, including a group of white ministers from St. Louis, all urging him to use his influence to put through a legislation against mob violence. But what did he do about it?—Nothing. He has at no time appeared before the house or senate in behalf of such a measure; nor did he appear before either of the judiciary committees and urge the passage of such a law; nor did he interest himself enough to find out whether the bill, which was about to become a law, was adequate enough. But he has been very busy since the passage of the law finding a way to veto it.

5-15-31

We have a suspicion that politics played the major part in the governor's veto. Senator Michael Kinney, who fathered the bill, is, of course, a Democrat. The majority of members in the present house and the senate of the Missouri legislature are Democrats. And, because this is the first time that a bill of this kind has passed both houses of the legislature, the governor (a Republican) has vetoed the measure. The governor says that the bill should be broad enough to give the governor or attorney-general power to act in the event that county officers or sheriffs fail to do their duty. If the bill had included this provision and the state perchanced to have a chief executive like Governor Caulfield, the people would not be any better off. We make this statement because he has done nothing, absolutely nothing so far as results are concerned, in the recent Maryville affair. He had the power to remove his own appointee, Adjutant General A. V. Adams, who with a company of militia housed themselves within a stone's throw of the mob at Maryville and allowed a most brutal lynching to take place. There was no excuse for the adjutant general to fail to act when mob violence was being carried on right in his presence. But the only thing that the governor has done in the matter, so far as we know, was to make excuses for his adjutant; and he has puzzled his brain in his vain attempt to make the public believe that he, himself, has done his duty in the case.

St Louis, Mo.

NEW YORK SUN

MAY 19 1931

How Lynching Thrives.

Governor CAULFIELD of Missouri has vetoed an anti-lynching bill passed by the Legislature of that State on the ground that it failed to place on Sheriffs sufficient responsibility for protecting prisoners from mobs. The measure proposed to punish with fines and imprisonment State and municipal officers failing to do their duty, but a Sheriff, the Governor said, is an officer belonging to neither of these classifications. The Governor pointed out a further weakness in the legislation:

> "Lynching is murder, punishable by death, but the present statute against murder is not effective to punish lynching because the State is not allowed to take a change of venue, and prosecution must be held in the county where the crime occurred, and where, usually, the state of the public mind is not favorable to conviction. This bill would suffer from the same infirmity, and it would have no effect to prevent lynching."

Sheriffs, the Governor might have added, not only are supposed to keep their prisoners in safe custody, but also are primarily responsible in Missouri for summoning jurors. In rural counties the Sheriff's office represents also about the only moderately efficient police force or constabulary. To exempt the Sheriff from punitive provisions of the statute would amount almost to nullification in any county wherein that official's sympathy happened to be with the mob.

Lynching is a crime that can be stopped whenever the people of a community or State really want to stop it; it will be stopped whenever and wherever constituted authority is firmly resolved to do its duty and courts and juries can be depended upon to see that appropriate punishment is meted out to the guilty.

COLUMBIA, MO.
MISSOURIAN [redacted]

MAY 15 1931

No Half-Way Measure

CITIZENS of Missouri will be without adequate protection against mob-lynchings for another two years. The anti-lynching measure recently passed by the legislature and sent to Governor Caulfield for his signature was returned to that body last Wednesday, via the veto route.

Although he admitted the necessity for a measure aiding in the prosecution of mobs, the Governor, in his veto message, stated that he believed the proposed law would not remedy the evils of the situation. He pointed out that the bill did not provide for the prosecution of all officers of the law, especially county officers, who might be guilty of laxity in the fulfillment of their duty in times of mob violence. A second great deficiency was that it did not provide for the trial of these delinquent officers in courts located outside of the county in which the lynching occurred.

Realizing that lynchings are a deplorable public disgrace and constitute a menace to the dignity of law and order, the Governor outlined the needs of anti-lynching legislation and urged that laws incorporating these needs be passed.

"Lynching is murder," he said in commenting on present laws, "but the present statute against murder is not effective to punish lynching because the state is not allowed to take a change of venue and the prosecution must be held in the county where, usually, the public mind is not favorable to conviction.

"This bill would suffer from the same infirmity. It omits from its provisions the very officer, the sheriff, upon whose shoulders falls almost exclusively the high duty of protecting a prisoner from mob violence." The Governor urged upon the assembly the necessity of passing a law which would provide tribunals, outside the counties wherein the lynchings occurred.

Governor Caulfield was wise in vetoing the proposed law. It is far better to wait a while longer in the hope that a law may be passed which will effectively remedy the present situation, rather than sanction an ineffectual and inadequate measure now.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
NEWS

MAY 20 1931

MISSOURI FAILS

Gov. Henry S. Caulfield of Missouri has vetoed the anti-lynching bill passed by the state legislature for the good and sufficient reason that the measure was more notable for its omissions than for its punitive provisions against mob murder. It only called for the imprisonment or fine of state or municipal officers failing to protect a prisoner from a mob.

As Gov. Caulfield points out in his veto message, "the bill omits from its provisions the very officer, the sheriff, upon whose shoulders falls almost exclusively the high duty of protecting the prisoner from mob violence." County officers are not specified in the measure. For this reason and for the further one that under present statutes the state authorities are not permitted to take a change of venue in murder cases the governor believes the bill "would have no effect to prevent lynching."

Missouri has been shamed by several mob murders in recent years. The force of the governor's observations is apparent when one recalls the lynching at Marysville where a Negro was chained to the roof of a schoolhouse and there was burned to death when the torch was applied to the building. On that occasion the sheriff of the county refused to call on Missouri troops encamped in the vicinity to assist him in protecting the man. It is very clear that the bill passed by the legislature was intended only as a gesture—that there was no purpose to enact a real anti-lynching measure. One wonders whether public sentiment in Missouri supports the legislature in this matter.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.
NEWS-PRESS

MAR 24 1931

DOZENS OF MINOR BILLS ARE KILLED BY LOWER HOUSE

End to Engrossment of Calendar Automatically Quashes Many Measures.

NOISY SESSION MARKS THE TURNING POINT

Negro Representative Receives Action on Proposed Anti-Lynching Law.

JEFFERSON CITY, March 24.—(U.P.)—The engrossment calendar died in the house of representatives today, killing dozens of minor bills which were reported favorably out of committee but whose sponsors either failed or did not care to bring them up on the floor of the house.

In accordance with a resolution by Representative James T. Blair Jr., Democratic floor leader, all bills on the informal calendar for engrossment which were not taken up by midnight last night were automatically killed.

Session Is Riotous.

The house now will spend the remainder of its time in consideration of bills upon third reading and final passage, with the exception of the redistricting bill, which was made a special order of business today for engrossment and was not affected by the resolution.

The passing of the engrossment calendar was marked by a riotous session in the house last night. Several bills were engrossed toward the last of the session with members ofttimes not even knowing what they provided, realizing that most of the bills will later be killed on final passage.

Truck Bill Is Killed.

Among the more important measures engrossed yesterday was an anti-lynching bill introduced by Representative Clegg, Negro, St. Louis, who was inspired by the recent lynching in Maryville when a Negro attacker was burned to death. The bill makes participation in a lynching punishable by death and provides penalties for officers who fail to take every precaution to protect prisoners.

The house killed a bill sponsored by the state highway department which was intended to regulate the size and weight of busses and trucks operating on state highways. Representative Blair, authoz of the bill, caused it to be tabled after amendments to which he was unfavorable had been adopted against his protest.

Brew Malt Tax Fails.

The house also summarily killed a bill providing a tax of 5 cents per pound on brew malt. The bill, proposed by Representatives Elmer of Dent County and Snyder of Lewis County, was opposed by the drys—who said it was a tacit admission that home brew is being made—and by the wets, who were opposed to "taxing home brew makers and then turning around and arresting them."

FARM LOAN BILL ENGROSSED.

Representatives Vote Unknowingly on $15,000,000 Measure.

JEFFERSON CITY, March 24.—(AP)—A $15,000,000 state loan fund for farmers was engrossed by the Missouri house of representatives last night with virtually all of the representatives present unaware of the nature of the bill. It will come up later for passage, unless it gets caught in the final jam before adjournment.

The bill would create a state loan board, made up of the governor and other elective state officials, to issue and sell that amount of state bonds and provide county loan boards to make loans to needy farmers for crops, each loan being on a potential crop planned by such a farmer. It was introduced by Representatives W. A. Despain Shannon County, and Elmer O Jones, Macon County, both Democrats.

$807,000 BILL ENGROSSED.

Measure Carries $50,000 for Fireproofing State Hospital No. 2.

JEFFERSON CITY, March 24.—(AP)—The house of representatives last night engrossed a bill which would appropriate $807,000 for rehabilitation of the state eleemosynary institutions and the State Federal Soldiers' Home at St. James. It will come up later for final passage.

The measure would provide:

For erection and installation of a power, heating and light plant and purchase of equipment for State Hospital No. 1 at Fulton, to be used jointly by the hospital and the state school for the deaf, $292,000.

$100,000 for Farmington.

Other appropriations would include:

For fire proofing buildings at State Hospital No. 2, St. Joseph, $50,000.

Fire proofing buildings at State Hospital No. 3, at Nevada, $50,000.

New buildings and equipment for houseing patients at State Hospital No. 4, at Farmington, $100,000.

Power plant and laundry and equipment for the state school for feebleminded at Marshall, $190,000.

$25,000 for Soldiers' Home.

Equipment and buildings for patients at the state tuberculosis sanitorium at Mt. Vernon, $50,000.

For the Federal Soldiers' Home at St. James, $25,000, making a total appropriation for the home which was destroyed several months ago by fire. Another appropriation bill provides for another $25,000 for the home.

PATROL BILL INDORSED.

Senate Committee Reports Favorably on State Police Measure.

JEFFERSON CITY, March 24.—(AP)—The house committee on roads and highways has reported with a recommendation that the senate bill providing for a state highway patrol be passed.

The measure, urged by the Automobile Club of Missouri, the state federation of labor, Governor Caulfield, Attorney General Shartel and others, would establish a highway patrol system throughout the state. The initial force would consist of 115 patrolmen under direction of a superintendent located here.

The house earlier this session killed a similar measure after it had been amended and changed very materially.

GOV. CAULFIELD KILLS THE ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURE

St. Louis Argus

His Action In Matter Has Brought Forth Much Unfavorable Criticism From The Public

5-15-31

Bill Had Passed Both Houses Of The Missouri Legislature And Awaited The Governor's Signature

St. Louis, Mo.

There was quite a stir among the colored citizens of St. Louis Wednesday when it was learned that Governor Caulfield had vetoed the anti-lynching bill which was recently passed by the Mo. legislature. The matter has elicited much discussion in many sections of the city.

Wherever little groups gathered here and there, the anti-lynching bill was the topic of discussion. So far as the writer was able to learn, without exception, the action of Governor Caulfield was being severely criticized. It has been quite interesting to note how the average person has analyzed the governor's action in this case.

The governor gave as his reason for the veto that the bill, which was fathered by a Democrat, was inadequate and that this might cause the people of the state to rest in false security. But the excuse is generally called "the bunk, pure and simple."

It will be remembered that Senator Michael Kinney who fathered the bill in the senate is a Democrat, while Governor Caulfield is a Republican.

MAIL

Nevada, Mo.

MAY 13 1931

TOO MANY HOLES IN ANTI-LYNCHING BILL, IT IS VETOED

Gov. Caulfield Points Out Measure Omits Penalties For County Officers Who Fail to Fulfill

Duties.

Jefferson City, May 13.—The Kinney anti-lynching bill, introduced in the legislature by State Senator Kinney of St. Louis, and passed by both houses as an aftermath of the lynching of a negro at Maryville, Mo., last January, was vetoed yesterday by Gov. Caulfield on the grounds it contains defects which would have made the measure ineffective.

The act provides penalties for state and municipal officers who migh fail to protect persons in their jurisdiction from mob violence but did not include county officers such as the sheriff.

This omission, the governor said, excluded from the penalties and provisions of the bill "the very officer, the sheriff, upon whose shoulders falls almost exclusively the high duty of protecting a prisoner from mob violence.

"The situation would not be aided, but would be complicated," he said, "and the people lulled into a false sense of security by this bill becoming a law."

The bill did not enumerate specifically the officials subject to its provisions, but was applicable only to state or municipal officials who failed to act to prevent mob violence, or to proceed against members of a mob and to any persons who might conspire with such officers to bring about mob violence. Various penalties were provided, ranging from a five-year prison sentence, or $5,000 fine, to life imprisonment.

The governor said the bill was defective because it proposed punishment only for the acts, or failure to act, of a state or municipal officer. He said the Missouri Supreme Court, in repeated rulings, had held that the sheriff was not a state or municipal officer, but a county officer.

"Lynching is murder, punishable by death," the governor said, "but the present statute against murder is not effective to punish lynching, because the state is not allowed to take a change of venue, and prosecution must be had in the county where the crime occurred, and where usually the state of the public mind is not favorable to conviction.

"This bill will suffer from the same infirmity. It will have no effect to prevent lynching because prosecution can be had only in the county where the offense charged shall have been committed."

TIMES
KANSAS CITY, MO.

MAY 14 1931

Effective Law Against the Mob.

It had been understood that the antilynching bill passed by the Missouri legislature included sheriffs as well as other officers of the law in the penalties fixed for official neglect of duty in protecting prisoners against a mob or in conspiring with individual members of it for release of prisoners.

The original house bill included such a definite provision, along with a fine for counties in which mob acts occurred. The senate bill, which finally was adopted, carried a general reference to state and municipal officers. Whether the change was made by design, with the purpose of reconciling all factions concerned, or with the assumption that the reference was sufficiently inclusive of the aims of the house bill, the result, it now appears, was a measure of little or no value as an addition to existing laws.

Governor Caulfield might have signed the bill and allowed it to go at that; just another law that would be perfectly harmless and become virtually a dead letter. But, being a conscientious executive, he vetoes the measure on the identical ground that it would be ineffective. The governor states that supreme court rulings and an opinion of the attorney general are to the effect that "a sheriff is not a state or municipal officer within the language of this bill," but is a county officer. It is deemed essential not only that county officers be included in such legislation but that the state be allowed a change of venue for prosecution of mob violence cases in counties other than those in which the acts of lawlessness occurred. Another valuable provision, fixing local responsibility, is that of the county fine, which had been incorporated in the house bill.

Missouri should have further protection against displays of mob violence. Legislation giving the state the needed authority, making punishment of officers sufficiently inclusive and encouraging local support of law and order should be the aim of future efforts of this kind in Missouri.

3410

Lynchings-1931
Legislation Relating to.

RECORDER
Indianapolis, Ind.
MAR 14 1931

INDIANA ANTI-LYNCHING BILL WITH "TEETH" PASSED BY ASSEMBLY

MUCH CONTROVERTED MEASURE RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE AFTER PASSING STATE—"STRONG TEETH" REINSTATED.

Following are the eight very much controverted amendments to the new Indiana anti-lynching bill as passed by the Senate and Governor Harry G. Leslie Friday of last week. These amendments were introduced to strengthen House Bill No. 81.

Engrossed House Bill No. 81

A Bill for an Act concerning lynching, providing for the removal and reinstatement of county sheriffs having the custody of persons lynched, authorizing the maintenance of actions for damages sustained as the result thereof, and prescribing penalties for inflicting damage or injury on others in certain cases without authority of law.

Section 1.—Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That if any person or prisoner shall be taken from the county sheriff or the deputy county sheriff having such person in custody, and shall be lynched, the governor shall issue his proclamation declaring the office of such sheriff suspended, and the office of such sheriff shall thereby and thereupon be immediately suspended, and the coroner of the county shall thereupon immediately succeed to and perform the duties of the office of sheriff until a successor of such sheriff shall be duly elected or appointed.

Sec. 2.—If such sheriff desires to be reinstated, he may petition the governor, setting out in his petition the facts showing that he did all in his power that was possible to protect the life of such such person or persons, by violence, and without authority of law, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and shall suffer imprisonment for any indeterminate period not exceeding ten years and not less than three years, and the serving of such sentence shall be mandatory.

Sec. 4.—All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3.—The surviving spouse, lineal heirs parents or adopted children of any such other persons, who, before loss of life, were dependent for support upon any other person who shall hereafter suffer death by lynching at the hands of a mob, in any county, city or town of this state, may recover from the county, city or town where the lynchnig occurred, for injuries sustained by reason of the loss of life of such person, a sum of not to exceed 10 thousand dollars and not less than five thousand dollars.

Section 5.—Any person who is assaulted and lynched by a mob and who is injured but does not suffer death may have an action against the county where such injury occurs and may recover a determinate um not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars.

Section 6.—Should any property be destroyed or injured as the result of a mob in the county in which such property is destroyed should be liable to an action therefor my the party whose property was destroyed.

Section 7.—That any collection of individuals, five or more in number, assembled for the unlawful purpose of offering violence to the person or property of any one supposed to have been guilty of a violation of the law, or for the purpose of exercising correctional powers or regulative powers over any person or persons by violence, and without lawful authority, shal lbe regarded and designed by a "Mob" or "Riotous Assemblage."

Section 8.—That the term "Injured,"' for the purposes of this act, shall include any injury to property which shall cause damage to the owner thereof, or any injury to the person whch shall temporarily or permanently disable the person injured from earning a livelihood.

And when so amended that said bill do pass

RECORDER
Indianapolis Ind
MAR 14 1931

THE ANTI-LYNCHING LAW.

The signing of the Indiana Anti-Lynching Bill by Governor Leslie was not only a masterly political stroke, but a step taken at the proper time and in the logical direction. Now that the law is definitely numbered among those on the statute books of the commonwealth, Indiana has automatically retrieved its high status as a safe place in which to live. A mighty refreshing circumstance, and one of which the law-abiding citizens of the Hoosier State have every reason to be proud.

Too much praise can not be given Representative Fred Galloway for the untiring efforts and intelligent persistence expended by him on and off the floor of the Assembly in interest of the measure, the passage of which has saved the good name of Indiana from disgrace and worse.

To the upper house is due also high commendation or the noble step it took in adding to the law its "teeth" which were extracted by the lower branch and putting its stamp of approval upon the measure in its original effective form. But for this we perhaps would have been given an anti-lynching law that would have been less than useless. It would have been more; such a law as dished up to the Senate by the house unchanged would have been an insult to the decent citizenry of the State of Indiana. The act of a Republican governor in signing a bill that has for its direct purpose, the protecting of the lives of law-abiding citizens against unwarranted abuse by irresponsible mob rule adherents is at least a creditable one. Governor Leslie's performance should be productive of much that is desirable in the interest of his party which of late has undergone a loss of prestige that is unprecedented in scope.

The tendency of the scum of American citizens to take the law of the land into their own hands is on the increase. All sections of the country are menaced to an alarming extent by this damnable spirit of vicious barbarity. Unchecked, the system would create a state of affairs that would stagger the imagination. No person, no matter how innocent would be safe from its murderous mission. It would be a hellish state of insecurity to our group, which is on record as the most susceptible victims of mob violence. To neglect the duty of effectively curbing the mob spirit which is spreading over the land would be to officially aid and abet the cowardly system and betray an entire race to its exterminating aims.

Now that the anti-lynching measure has been constitutionally enacted, it is to be hoped that no stone will be left unturned in the matter of enforcing the law. Should the occasion ever arise, the better thinking citizens of Indiana should see to it that this is done.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
POST DISPATCH
APR 11 1931

ONE GOOD CLAUSE.

The anti-lynching bill, passed Thursday by the House, was characterized by Representative Heege as an attempt by Democrats to increase their strength among Negro voters. However that may be, it contains one excellent clause, namely, making the lynching of a prisoner *prima facie* evidence of neglect of duty on the part of a peace officer, for which he may be removed by the Governor. If it had been in effect before the Maryville lynching, perhaps the Sheriff would have called upon the National Guard unit which had been mobilized in anticipation of trouble and was awaiting his summons. The provision of the bill providing the death penalty for members of lynching parties, of course, is just so much language. These parties, especially in small Southern communities, are usually composed of the entire population, acting either directly or as sympathetic spectators. Since the prosecutor, Judge and jury necessary to proceed against lynchers must be drawn from the community, it is not difficult to understand why it has always been impossible to punish them.

Argus

4-10-31

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AFTER RECONSIDERATION

Motion to Take New Vote on Defeated Measure Results in Passage in the House

St. Louis, Mo.

IS SENT TO THE SENATE

Had Been Killed by the Vote of Rural Republicans Who Called it Democrats Scheme

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Apr. 10—BULLETIN—Reconsidering action taken Wednesday in defeating the Bourk and Lafferty anti-lynching bill, the House, Thursday by a vote of 81-28, passed the measure, whereupon it was sent to the Senate for consideration. Representative B. H. Rucker of Phelps County, who voted against the bill Wednesday, made the motion to reconsider it. Rept. Frank W. Clegg of St. Louis was one of the principle workers in obtaining the passage of the bill by five votes more than necessary.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., April 9—The anti-lynching bill introduced into the Missouri Legislature by Representatives Bourk and Lafferly, Democrats of Kansas City, lost in the House Wednesday when it failed to get the necessary constitutional majority vote. The vote was 67 to 20 and lacked nine votes of passing the measure.

Provided For Punishment

The bill, introduced into the house shortly after the cremation of Raymond Gunn at Maryville, Mo., Jan. 12, last, would have made any member cf a mob subject to punishment by death or life imprisoment and authorized removal from office by the Governor of any peace officer from whom a prisoner is taken and lynched.

The 20 negative votes were cast by rural Republicans. Representative Heege of St. Louis County was one of the group who denounced the bill as a "political gesture in an effort to increase the Democratic Negro vote."

Made Appeals For Bill

Many appeals had been made for the passage of the measure by church and civic organizations. A special delegation representing the N. A. A. C. P. visited the Capital to make a plea for the measure.

There have been 86 lynchings in Missouri and 61 of the victims have been colored.

Another bill has been introduced into the house by Republicans.

OBSERVER

Cameron Mo

APR 11 1931

The Boury-Lafferty anti-lynching bill, designed to prevent mob violence in Missouri, was killed in the House yesterday when it lacked nine votes of having the constitutional majority necessary to passage.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.
TIMES

APR 9 1931

Indiana's Anti-Lynching Law

LYNCHINGS at Marion, Indiana, last year, caused the Idiana Legislature to write a drastic anti-lynching law which Governor Leslie has lately signed.

If a prisoner is taken from the custody of a sheriff or deputy and lynched, the Governor is by this law directed at once to suspend the sheriff pending investigation of the facts. If the sheriff is declared derelict in duty, he shall be adjudged guilty of a felony and imprisoned from three to ten years.

There are also provided heavy money penalties against county and city or town where an attempted lynching occurs; and the heirs of one lynched shall receive damages. Counties are also made liable for property damage committed by mobs.

The Indiana law will in all probability put sheriffs on their mettle—and certainly many sheriffs throughout the whole country need such a stimulus as this law provides.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.
TIMES

APR 9 1931

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NEWS

Jefferson City, Mo.

APR 10 1931

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL PASSED BY MISSOURI HOUSE

After Losing Yesterday, Measure Was Put Over; Was Introduced After Maryville Crime.

An anti-lynching bill designed to put more teeth in Missouri's statutes against mobs and lynching, was passed by the house of the legis'ature late today, 81 to 28.

The proposal, introduced by Representatives Gil P. Bourk and William Lafferty, both Democrats and of Kansas City, failed to pass yesterday, not receiving the required seventy-six votes necessary for passage, but today with more representatives present, it was reconsidered and put over.

The bill was introduced early in the session and followed the burning and lynching of Raymond Gunn, negro, at Maryville, Mo., alleged to have brutally attacked and murdered Velma Coulter, 19-year-old teacher, at a rural school near Maryville.

The measure, which now goes to the senate, defines a mob as three or more persons banded together for the purpose of harming any prisoner, or taking him from peace officers. It would provide death for any member of a mob convicted of participating when a prisoner was seized and killed, and from one to twenty years imprisonment for attempted lynching. Any sheriff, deputy or peace officer who conspired with, or aided a mob, or group, to seize a prisoner would forfeit his office

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Headlight
Pittsburg Kans

APR 9 1931

THE ANTI-MOB BILL.

The bill to prevent lynchings in Missouri was rejected by the house at Jefferson City yesterday. It provided heavy penalties for persons convicted of mob violence, death being the penalty for those found guilty of participating in a lynching and a long prison term for those participating in an attempted lynching.

Enemies of the bill said it was merely a gesture to win the favor of colored voters.

That the measure would have any effect on lynching is unlikely. Did anyone ever hear of a person being convicted of being a member of a lynching mob?

Age

4-11-31

New York

State Legislature Passes Resolution Condemning Lynching

Albany, N. Y.—The Senate concurred with the Assembly in the adoption of an anti-lynching resolution on Monday, April 6. The resolution was introduced by Assemblyman Robert K. Story, jr., Brooklyn's only Republican member of the Legislature.

The resolution condemned "the practice of the people of some of the Southern States of taking the law into their own hands" and memoralized Congress to enact "with all convenient speed" such regulatory measures as will put an end to lynching.

Age

4-11-31

Anti-Lynching Resolution in New York Senate

NEW YORK — Resolution unanimously passed by the Assembly of New York State, February 2, condemning lynching in Dixie and urging Congress to pass an anti-lynching law, and sent to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, would have remained there had it not been for the watchful eye of Assemblyman J. E. Stephens, who went before the committee and had it extricated before it had died.

Assemblyman Stephens, the militant Democrat, fought for the immediate passage of the resolution, in the Senate Judiciary Committee, ably assisted by Senator Duncan T. O'Brien, white, a Democrat from the assemblyman's district.

Lieutenant Governor Lehrman praised the achievement of Mr. Stephens, in restoring the resolution to the Senate calendar, and has assured its passage.

This is the first concrete step toward the abolishment of lynching ever made in this country.

JOURNAL
KANSAS CITY, MO.

APR 10 1931

STUDY MOB PENALTY

House Sends Anti-Lynching Bill to Senate.

From the Journal-Post Jefferson City Bureau.

JEFFERSON CITY, April 10.—The anti-lynching bill, which was reconsidered and passed by the house late yesterday, today was sent to the senate for consideration.

The bill was passed by a vote of 81 to 28 after Rep. B. H. Rucker of Phelps county had moved to reconsider the vote by which the measure was defeated Wednesday. There was no debate. The vote was promptly taken with the result that a number of representatives switched in favor of the bill and it passed.

The bill provides life imprisonment for any person who participates in a lynching. It defines a mob of three or more persons who attempt to forcibly take a prisoner from an officer. The measure was sponsored by Rep. Gil Bourk and Rep. William Lafferty of Kansas City.

Lynchings-1931
Legislation Relating to

3411

4-17-31

SENATOR KINNEY'S ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The State Senate passed an anti-lynching bill Tuesday which, if concurred by the House, will become a law. A similar bill was recently passed by the House of Representatives which awaits the approval of the Senate so that it may become a law. With these two bills in their present positions, it is difficult at this time for us to predict the outcome of either; but it is reasonable to presume that one of these bills will pass both Houses.

Of course, we are favorable to Senator Kinney's bill because the senator from St. Louis has had a long record in the Senate; and, therefore, it would be fitting as a high light in his senatorial career should his measure against mob violence become a law. His bill, however, is likely to meet some opposition in the House from those who would play politics by trying to make it appear that the bill is designed merely to catch a few Negro votes. But such opposition should not be seriously considered by those who would like to see the state free from mob violence.

When this bill was before the House recently, Representative George Heegee from St. Louis County in opposing the measure said, "This bill is merely a political gesture on the part of the majority members of the House to get the Negro vote. I think that it is a joke. It certainly would work hardships on innocent sheriffs who had been overpowered by mobs and were forced to give up their prisoners."

We do not regard the words of Mr. Heegee as being sincere. He merely expressed his inner feeling against the measure and used the words he did merely as a convenience. It was this same George Heegee who, in 1921 when an anti-lynching measure was before the House, opposed it and caused its defeat. The bill at that time was introduced by Representative Walthall M. Moore and would have, no doubt, passed the Senate had it not been defeated in the House.

By saying that the present bill is a political gesture on the part of the Democrats to catch Negro votes, Mr. Heegee tries to play up racial prejudice with a hope of gratifying his own feeling against the Negro. He is so blinded by racial prejudice himself that he doesn't even know that a group of white ministers of St. Louis journeyed to Jefferson City and made their plea for the passage of the anti-lynching bill as a matter of good government, and the protection of the good name of Missouri; but Mr. Heegee, who poses as one of our "good Republicans," doesn't give a snap of his fingers about the good name of Missouri when it comes to lynching, because he figures that the victims in all probabilities will be Negroes. When Mr. Heegee says, "The bill is a joke and would work hardships on the sheriff," he is pleading for a substitute bill which would be a joke sure enough: for it was he who killed the Moore Bill back in 1921 by amendments and amendments which took the teeth out of it and made it not worth the paper on which it was written.

We hope that the House members will not regard this anti-lynching bill as a political measure or as a special measure to catch Negro votes, but as a law designed to protect life, liberty and property of every citizen in the state regardless of race or color.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, GAZETTE
Saturday, April 18, 1931

65

OHIO ANTI-LYNCHING LAW LEADS THE COUNTRY IN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

Against the Mob and Lynch-Murder—Three Years' Work of a Member of the Race—Also His Ohio Civil Rights Law.

Our mob-violence or anti-lynching bill was introduced in the Ohio legislature in 1894 and re-introduced in 1896. It took the Hon. Harry C. Smith, editor of The Gazette, just three years to secure its enactment into law. The Ohio Supreme Court has several times upheld the constitutionality of the law and it has been very effective. Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have followed Ohio's lead and enacted mob violence or anti-lynching laws which are copies of our Ohio law. Several other northern states and at least one border state (Kentucky) have also enacted anti-lynching laws, in recent years, like Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Ohio law follows:

MOBS.

Section	
6278.	"Mob" and "lynching" defined.
6279.	"Serious injury" defined.
6280.	Damages in case of assault.
6281.	Damages in case of lynching.
6282.	Damages recoverable by legal representative of victim of lynching.
6283.	Person suffering death or injury by mob trying to lynch another.
6284.	Limitations of action.
6285.	Order to include recovery and costs in tax levy.
6286.	Guardian's custody, etc., fees.
6287.	County's right of action against member of mob
6288.	County's right of action against another county.
6289.	Non-relief from prosecution.

Section 6278. A collection of people assembled for an unlawful purpose and intending to do damage or injury to any one, or pretending to exercise correctional power over other persons by violence and without authority of law, shall be deemed a "mob" for the purpose of this chapter. An act of violence by a mob upon the body of any person shall constitute a "lynching" within the meaning of this chapter. (93 v. 161 2.)

Section 6279. The term "serious injury," for the purpose of this chapter, shall include such inquiry as permanently or temporarily disables the person receiving it from earning a livelihood by manual labor. (93 v. 161 3.)

Section 6280. A person taken from officers of justice by a mob and assaulted with whips, clubs, missiles or in any other manner, may recover, as hereafter provided, a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars as damages from the county in which the assault is made. (93 v. 161 4.)

Section 6281. A person assaulted and lynched by a mob may recover, from the county in which such assault is made a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars; or, if the injury received therefrom is serious, a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars; or, if such injury result in permanent disability, to earn a livelihood by manual labor, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars. (93 v. 12 5.)

Section 6282. The legal representative of a person dying from injuries received from lynching by a mob, may recover of the county in which such injury occurred, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars damages for such unlawful killing. Such sum shall be applied to the maintenance of the family and education of the minor children of such person so lynched, if any survive him, until such children are of legal age, and then be distributed to the survivors, share and share alike, the widow receiving an amount equal to a child's share. If there be no widow or minor children surviving such decedent, such sum shall be distributed among the next of kin according to the laws of the distribution of the personality of an intestate. Such sum so recovered shall not be a part of the estate of such person so lynched, nor be subject to any of his liabilities. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6283. A person suffering death or injury from a mob attempting to lynch another person shall come within the provisions of this chapter. He or his legal representatives shall have a like right of action as one purposely injured or killed by such a mob. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6284. Action for the recoveries provided for in this chapter must be commenced, within two years from the date of such lynching, in any court having original jurisdiction of an action for damages for malicious assault. (93 v. 162 7.)

Section 6285. An order to the commissioners of a county, against which such recovery is had, to include it with the costs of action, in the next succeeding tax levy for such county, shall be a part of the judgment in every such case. (93 v. 162 8.)

Section 6286. If the decedent so lynched has minor children surviving him, the fund shall be turned over to a regularly appointed guardian. Such guardian shall administer such fund under the direction of the probate judge, allowing not more than five hundred dollars for counsel fees in the action for such recovery. (93 v. 162 9.)

Section 6287. The county, in which a lynching occurs, may recover the amount of a judgment and costs against it in favor of the legal representatives of a person killed or seriously injured by a mob from any of the persons composing such mob. A person present, with hostile intent, at such lynching shall be deemed a member of the mob and be liable to such action. (93 v. 162 10.)

Section 6288. If a mob carries a prisoner into another county, or comes from another county to commit violence on a prisoner brought from such county for safekeeping, the county in which the lynching is committed may recover the amount of the judgment and costs from the county from which the mob came, unless there was contributory negligence on the part of officials of such county in failing to protect such prisoner or dispurse such mob. (93 v. 163 11.)

Section 6289. This chapter shall not relieve a person concerned in such lynching from prosecution for homicide or assault for engaging therein. (93 v. 163 12.)

OUR OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW

Upon the request of many readers of The Gazette we print below the text of the Hon. Harry C. Smith's Ohio Civil Rights law which the editor had enacted while a member of the 71st General Assembly, in 1894:

The General Code of Ohio:

Sec. 12940. Whoever, being the proprietor or his employee, keeper or manager of an inn, restaurant, eating house, barber-shop, public conveyance by land or water, theater or other place of public accommodation and amusement, denies to a citizen, except for reasons applicable alike to all citizens and regardless of race or color, the full enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days, or both.

Sec. 12941. Whoever violates the next preceding section shall also pay not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundreds dollars to the person aggrieved thereby to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county where such offense was committed.

This law has repeatedly been held constitutional and good law by the Ohio Supreme court. The trouble is our people will not use it as often as they should, but expect it to do for them what they should and must do for themselves, under it, in the courts.

Argus
St. Louis
Mo.

Mo. Senate Passes Anti-Lynching Bill

4-17-31

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Apr. 16.—The Kinney anti-lynching bill passed the Senate Tuesday by a vote of 19-7, making two bills against lynching that have been acted upon in the Legislature within a month. The Kinney bill was sent to the House, which previously passed a bill now pending in the Senate.

The Kinney measure provides that if sheriff or other law officer having custody of a prisoner fails or neglects to make appropriate efforts to protest him, or any Sheriff or Prosecuting Attorney who fails or refuses to apprehend and prosecute participants in mobs that they shall be deemed guilty of a felony and punishment by imprisonment for five years or by a fine not exceeding $5000.

Under the provisions of this bill the Sheriff who failed to take suitable steps to protect his prisoner would be put into the category as a mob leader and subject to the same punishment.

If a Sheriff conspired with mob leaders to turn over to them a prisoner in his custody his punishment is fixed at from five years to life in the Penitentiary, if the prisoner were killed.

MISSOURI STATE SENATE FAVORS ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURE

Pittsburgh, Pa

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 19—(CNS)—The Senate committee on criminal jurisprudence Monday reported with favorable recommendation a bill against lynchings in Missouri.

The measure, introduced by Senator Michael Kinney (Dem.) of St. Louis, is similar to a measure sponsored in Congress by Representative L. C. Dyer, of St. Louis.

It provides punishment for officers failing to protect prisoners from mob violence as high as five years' imprisonment or $5000 fine. It also provides for $10,000 indemnity to families of lynched prisoners, payable by the county in which the lynching occurred.

Light
Waxahachie, Tex

APR 11 1931

RIGID LYNCHING LAW PASSED IN STATE ~~OF INDIANA~~—

Shocked into action by the lynchings at Marion Indiana, last year, the State Legislature of Indiana has enacted and Governor Leslie has just signed a stringent law meant to be an effective deterrent of future crimes of this character.

The bill provides that, in cast a prisoner is taken from the custody of a sheriff or deputy and lynched, the governor shall automatically suspend the sheriff pending a full investigation. If then the sheriff is found to have been derelict in duty he shall be deemed guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned from three to ten years.

The county in which the lynching occurs is made liable for damages to the heirs of the victim in a sum not less than $5,000 nor more than $10,000, and it is provided further that the victim of an attempted lynching may recover damages from the county, city, or town where the attempt occurs. The county is made liable also for property damage inflicted by the mob.

The law is patterned after the Dyer Act, which was vigorously argued pro and con in the National House a few years ago and which, if passed, would have been effective in every State in the Union.

JOURNAL
KANSAS CITY, MO.

APR 14 1931

PASS LYNCHING BILL

Senate Measure Milder Than That of House.

From the Journal-Post Jefferson City Bureau.

JEFFERSON CITY, April 14.—The senate today passed the Kinney anti-lynching bill without opposition.

The bill provides that any person who participates in a mob and lynching shall be guilty of felony punishable by $5,000 fine and imprisonment for five years in the penitentiary.

The measure also provided that any officer who conspired with a mob or permitted a prisoner to be taken from their custody shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of not less than five years.

A more stringent anti-lynching bill has been passed in the house. It provided life imprisonment for persons participating in lynchings. Reps. Gil P. Bourk and William Lafferty of Kansas City, were authors of the house bill.

ST. LOUIS, MO
POST DISPATCH

APR 15 1931

KINNEY'S ANTI-LYNCHING BILL PASSED BY STATE SENATE

Measure Penalizes Officers Who Permit Mob Rule and Provides for Damages.

By the Associated Press.

JEFFERSON CITY, April 15.—The Missouri Senate yesterday passed a bill by Senator Kinney of St. Louis, known as an "antilynching" measure and designed to curb mob law in the State. It is modeled after the Dyer antilynching bill sponsored by Congressman Dyer of St. Louis.

The measure was introduced in the State Senate shortly after the lynching in Maryville, Mo., of Raymond Gunn, Negro, for the murder of Miss Thelma Coulter, school teacher.

It provides penalties for county officers guilty of permitting prisoners to be lynched, and provides for indemnities to be paid by counties to the families of mob victims.

A similar bill was passed in the House of Representatives last week.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

APR 15 1931

ANTILYNCHING BILL PASSES IN SENATE

Globe-Democrat Staff Correspondent.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., April 14—The Kinney antilynching bill passed the Senate today by a vote of 19 to 7.

The bill now goes to the House which previously passed a bill which now is pending in the Senate.

The bills are not identical in wording and provisions.

This measure provides that if a sheriff or other law officer having custody of a prisoner fails or neglects to make appropriate efforts to protect him, or any Sheriff or Prosecuting Attorney who fails or refuses to apprehend and prosecute participants in mobs that they shall be deemed guilty of a felony and punishment by imprisonment for five years or by a fine not exceeding $5000.

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NEWS
Jefferson City, Mo

APR 15 1931

Anti-Lynching Bill Was Passed Tuesday by the State Senate

The Missouri senate yesterday passed a bill by Senator Michael Kinney, St. Louis, known as an "anti-lynching" measure and designed to curb mob law in the state. It is modelled after the Dyer Anti-Lynching Act sponsored by Congressman L. C. Dyer of St. Louis.

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A similar law was passed in the house of representatives last week.

STAR
ST. LOUIS, MO.

MAY 15 1931

A TEST FOR THE GOVERNOR.

The Kinney anti-lynching bill, just vetoed by Governor ~~Caulfield, was~~ a farce. It applied only to state and city officials, whereas 99 per cent of the complaint is against a county officer—the sheriff—who has charge of prisoners. It provided for punishment by a jury in the county where the lynching occurred, and where popular passion defends the mob. These two defects, occurring together, make it almost certain that the bill was written as a deliberate "joker."

But if the bill was a farce, equally farcical is the governor's request that the next legislature frame a drastic law giving him power to remove sheriffs or other officers who fail to protect prisoners. Why didn't Mr. Caulfield ask for such a law while the legislature was in session? Why wait until it is too late?

However, we don't want to do the governor an injustice. He may not have been familiar with the details of the Kinney bill. There is an easy way to test his sincerity. If he sincerely means what he says about a drastic law for the removal of sheriffs who permit lynchings, he will at once use his authority and remove the Missouri adjutant general, his own personal representative, who stayed in the Maryville armory with national guardsmen while a mob burned a negro to death outside.

Lynchings-1931
6
Legislation Relating to.

3412

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

FEB 22 1931

HOUSE'S LYNCHING MEASURE PASSED

Suspension of Sheriff Provided—Prosecutors' Liquor Fee Bill Outlives Attack.

Four bills including the "anti-lynching" measure were passed yesterday by the House of Representatives at its first Saturday session. Two other important bills failed to pass for lack of constitutional majority.

Heated debate developed on the Egan-Monnig bill reducing the fees of prosecutors in liquor cases from $25 to $10 and the measure cutting the state highway commission's portion of state gasoline tax funds from 3 to 2 cents.

Opponents of the prosecutors' fee bill failed to muster a constitutional majority to kill it. The vote was 36 for passage and 44 opposed. The gasoline tax measure came within three votes of passing. The vote was 48 to 33. Both may be reconsidered on third reading.

Other Measures Approved.

The Connor bill requiring motor truck operators to obtain certificates of public convenience from the public service commission passed, 76 to 0, while the Black-Street bill requiring a referendum before municipally owned utilities may be leased to private companies received a vote of 76 to 0.

The "antilynching" measure of Representative Chester K. Watson of Fort Wayne was amended in committee by Representative H. H. Evans of Newcastle, Republican, to provide that the sheriff in a county in which a lynching occurs shall be suspended, to allow a petition for reinstatment within two weeks, to require that the suspension be lifted provided it can be proven that the sheriff was blameless. During the vacancy the coroner would take charge of the sheriff's office.

The original bill vacated the office and provided that survivors of the lynching victim may recover damages from the county, but Representative Evans declared the damage section was unconstitutional. Representative Fred S. Galloway of Indianapolis lost an effort to amend the bill to provide for the original damage clause. The present law provides for impeachment of the sheriff.

Reapportionment Measure Passed.

The Core reapportionment bill passed by a vote of 77 to 2, Delph L. McKesson, Democratic floor leader, and James M. Knapp, Republican floor leader, agreeing that the measure should pass to speed up work of a conference committee to straighten out "differences."

Representative Lew S. Core (Elnora, Democrat) author of the bill and chairman of the reapportionment committee, asserted that his bill was fair to both parties and predicted that if any apportionment plan is worked out "it will be on the basis of the Core bill."

Representative Fred A. Egan of Gary, author, provoked debate when he urged passage of his measure cutting the prosecutor's fee from $25 to $10 in liquor cases, declaring "there is no reason to give liquor cases precedence over capital crimes."

Miles J. Furnas, Republican caucus chairman, sought to make the matter a special order of business Tuesday, but the motion was tabled.

Launches Attack on Bill.

Representative Cecil J. Kistler, Republican, of Elkhart, launched an attack on the Egan bill, pointing out another change from the present law would require the approval and signature of the prosecutor on every search warrant.

Representative John D. T. Bold of Evansville apologized to the Women's Christian Temperance Union for his statement that the organization had a part in the writing of the law, declaring that he had received a written denial and that the organization favored the bill's passage.

Mr. McKesson declared himself in favor of the fee cut but objected to the "restrictions placed on search warrants," declaring that the passage would wipe out the search warrant which was on the statute books long before the liquor laws.

Charges Fog Raised.

Declaring that every search warrant should have the prosecutor's signature, Representative Jacob Weiss of Indianapolis charged that the objection to the bill's change in the search warrant provision was "a fog raised to defeat the bill."

Representative Earl Crawford, Democratic caucus chairman, declared that the practice of "throwing out cases in which as much as eighty gallons of liquor was seized because of legal technicalities has caused citizens wanting law observance to become disgusted."

"Such things make for law defiance. The bill ought to be defeated," asserted Crawford.

Representatives W. E. Stanton of Gary and Howard S. Grimm of Auburn lost efforts to amend the bill to strike out the section to change the search warrant provision.

Draws Sarcastic Remark.

The statement of Representative Roy C. Street of Lafayette that passage "would open the door to the liquor interests of Indiana to increase law violations" drew a sarcastic remark from Stanton.

"If that bill will open the door to the liquor interests what would open the door for Lafayette?"

Representative J. Frank Smith, also of Lafayette, answered that "Lafayette is not on trial."

Closing the argument, Representative Egan charged that the $25 liquor fee had been responsible for "commercialization of law enforcement."

Considerable objection to the bill of Representative Frank Finney of Martinsville providing for cutting the state highway commission's portion of gasoline tax from three-fourths to one-half was raised because of the danger of losing Federal aid on roads.

The roll call on gan-Monnig bill follows:

FOR THE BILL.

Democrats—Allardt, Bates, Biddle, Black, Bold, Braughton, Cantley, Conner, Cory, Egan, Eikenbary, Fary, Finney, Fitzgibbon, Fries, Galloway, Hoffman, Karrer, Kenney, Krueger, Kuespert, McClain, Monnig, Morgan, Reisinger, Ryan, Sage, Salata, Simmons, Stanton, Webb, Weiss, John F. White and Wilson. Total—34.

Republicans—Coleman and Evans: Total, 2.

Total for the bill, 36.

AGAINST THE BILL.

Democrats — Ale, Benz, Byers, Combs, Core, Crawford, Curry, Dahling, Douglass, Ellyson, Frailing, Gwin, Haines, Hawkins, Journay, Lee, Linke, McKesson, Martin, Modisett, Schlegel, Simpson, Smith of LaPorte, Stamp, Stoops, Vanderveer and Vellom—Total, 27.

Republicans—Adams, Cromer, Farrell, Furnas, Griggs, Grimm, Guard Guernsey, Kistler, Knapp, Knigh McGaughey, Remley, Smeltzly, Sm

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NEW BERN, N. C.
SUN JOURNAL

FEB 19 1931

HOUSE DELAYS DEBATE UNTIL MONDAY NIGHT

Highway Measure Goes Over Until That Time

BILL PASSES

Anti-lynching Measure Is Adopted By Senate

RALEIGH, Feb. 19.—(By Associat Press)—With the house postpor g debate on the administratic road bill until Monday night, t senate today passed the Law- e anti-lynching bill and both sions of the general assembly ked on their local and public andars.

The house got a favorable report on the Gardner road bill, as amended in committeee, this morning. Chairman Connor of the roads committee moved the bill be made a special order for tomorrow but a substitute motion to set it for Monday night was adopted.

The senate got a number of important public measures, including a bill sent up in mid-session by Senator Johnson of Duplin, to set up the machinery to effect a six months state - supported school term.

Senator Burrus of Guilford sent up a new bill to tax electrical power and Senator Jones of Richmond, sent up two bills relating to work in industry, one of which would establish a 55 hour day and 50 hour night working week and the other would prohibit night work for women and children.

The Lawrence bill was amended so as to exclude Cleveland county before it was passed by the senate and then a bill by Senator Folger of Surry, to change the manner of ap inting tru s in deeds of trust passed without opposition.

When the Minsdale measure to change the number of voters required on a petition to abolish a special tax district was called it was opposed by Senator Whedbee of Perquimans, and after debate the bill was killed on a roll call, 29 to 13. The present law requires signatures of 50 per cent of the voters in the district and the Hinsdale measure proposed to reduce this requirement to 25 per cent.

The house passed the budget advisory commission bill to allow reallocation of certain previously appropriated moneys of state institutions. The bill involved about $270,000 with the University of N. Carolina item for re-allotment of $140,000 the largest. The body also approved the Etheridge bill to provide for an investigation of the coasts, ports and waterways of the state.

A bill by Senator Johnson of Moore, to prevent mortgagors disposing of timber from land was tabled in the senate but in quick order the Lawrence bill relating to county courts passed.

Debate was caused by the McKee bill to provide for the same punishment for married women who desert their children as is provided for men but the bill passed after a motion to refer it to a judiciary committee was defeated.

The senate made the local government finance commission bill a special order for tomorrow morning.

RALEIGH, Feb. 19—(By Associated Press)—Out of committee at last, the administration road bill was expected to be reported to the house today and be disposed of before the week is over.

The house roads committee returned a favorable report on the bill yesterday afternoon after an amendment was added to provide for certain gasoline tax rebates.

Governor Gardner heralded the committee's report with a statement that "the fight has been won."

Both branches of the assembly faced heavy public calendars. The house disposed of a number of public and local bills in a session last night.

The Dosher bill to amend the law relating to separate specifications for certain work on public buildings and the Leake bill to make the landlord and tenant law apply to Stokes county were passed, but the bill of Representative Reed, of Buncombe, providing that sheriffs should license automobiles and list personal property for taxation was defeated.

Representative Garibaldi launched a furious assault on the bill of Mrs. Mebane to provide for a state institution for negro girls at Efland, which sent the proposal to the appropriations committee.

The joint appropriations committee yesterday afternoon tentatively approved increases in appropriations for North Carolina State college and North Carolina College for Women.

DIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

FEB 28 1931

SENATE PUTS "TEETH" INTO ANTILYNCHING BILL

The antilynching bill, which passed the House amended to render its provisions less severe, yesterday passed second reading in the Senate after Senator John L. Niblack of Indianapolis put "teeth" back into the measure. In addition to provision for removal of a sheriff from whom a prisoner has been taken by a mob, the measure now provides that survivors of a lynched person may sue the county for sums from $5,000 to $10,000.

JOURNAL & TIMES
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

FEB 23 1931

TENNESSEE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

There is now before the legislature of Tennessee a measure designed to prevent lynchings in that state. It is sponsored by the Tennessee Interracial Commission, and is offered as an amendment to the Ouster Bill enacted in 1915.

The amendment provides that any officer who has in custody the victim of the mob at the time of the lynching, or who is charged with the duty of protecting the prisoner, shall immediately be suspended from all official duties including the right of compensation, until an official inquiry shall have been made. Taking the form of an ouster hearing, the bill provides that it is the mandatory obligation of the attorney general of Tennessee to file ouster proceedings against the official within ten days after the lynching has occurred. The officer is automatically reinstated if, at the ouster hearing, it is proved that he was not guilty of neglect.

The purpose of this bill is to place in the hands of loyal and faithful officers a moral weapon which they do not now have, making it easier for them to restrain a mob by moral force rather than physical force. A mere appeal to an abstraction, "the majesty of the law," is not very effective. But if a sheriff can say to the mob that a violation of the law will injure him as well as the prisoner, he will have a new moral force at his command. Of course, if there are faithless sheriffs anywhere, they ought to be suspended at once. Sheriffs who do their duty should have all possible moral support.

There have not been many lynchings in Tennessee in recent years. The measure now pending may go far toward preventing a recurrence of these acts of violence in that state. Should the law be passed by the legislature of Tennessee it will be interesting to note its workings in the event of an outbreak of mob violence in that state and it may be that other states will be able to derive some profit from it.

MOBILE, ALA.
REGISTER

FEB 19 1931

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INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

MAR 1 1931

LYNCHING BLOW VOTED.

~~The House~~ antilynching bill, providing for suspension of sheriffs in counties where mobs have taken prisoners from custody and amended in the Senate to provide for suit of the county by survivors of persons lynched, passed the Senate yesterday by a 30-to-5 vote. It now goes back to the House for concurrence in Senate amendments.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

FEB 28 1931

Senate Passes Lynch Bill

An anti-lynching law "with teeth in it" was passed by the Indiana senate, 30 to 5, today, and returned to the house for concurrence in amendments making counties, cities and towns liable for damages upon suits by heirs of lynching victims.

House concurrence was regarded doubtful because the house had eliminated from the original measure the very provisions the senate placed in it by amendment.

News
WILMINGTON
NORTH CAROLINA

FEB 19 1931

Lawrence Anti-Lynching Bill Passed By Senate

BURRUS PROPOSES LEVY ON POWER

House Passes Budget Advisory Commission Bill; Finance Measure Up

RALEIGH, Feb. 19.—(AP)—With the house postponing debate on the administration road bill until Monday night, the senate today passed the Lawrence anti-lynching bill and both divisions of the general assembly worked on their local and public calendars.

The house got a favorable report on the Gardner road bill, as amended in committee, this morning. Chairman Connor of the roads committee moved the bill be made a special order for tomorrow but a substitute motion to set it for Monday night was adopted.

The senate got a number of important public measures, including a bill sent up in mid-session by Senator Johnson of Duplin to set up the machinery to effect a six months state-supported school term.

New Power Tax Bill

Senator Burrus of Guilford sent up a new bill to tax electrical power and Senator Jones of Richmond sent up two bills relating to work in industry, one of which would establish a 55 hour day and 60 hour night working week and the other would prohibit night work for women and children.

The Lawrence bill was amended so as to exclude Cleveland county before it was passed by the senate and then a bill by Senator Folger of Surry to change the manner of appointing trustees in deeds of trust passed without opposition.

When the Hinsdale measure to change the number of voters required on a petition to abolish a special tax district was called it was opposed by Senator Whedbee of Perquimans and after debate the bill was killed on a roll call, 29 to 13. The present law requires signatures of 50 per cent of the voters in the district and the Hinsdale measure proposed to reduce this requirement to 25 per cent.

Budget Bill Approved

The house passed the budget advisory commission bill to allow reallocation of certain previously appropriated monies of state institutions. The bill involves about $270,000 with the University of North Carolina item for re-allotment of $140,000 the largest. The body also approved the Etheridge bill to provide for an investigation of the coasts, ports and waterways of the state.

A bill by Senator Johnson of Moore to prevent mortgagors disposing of timber from land was tabled in the senate but in quick order toe Lawrence bill relating to county courts passed.

Debate was caused by the McKee bill to provide for the same punishment for married women who desert their children as is provided for men but the bill passed after a motion to refer it to a judiciary committee was defeated.

The senate made the local government finance commission bill a special order for tomorrow morning.

The house debated for more than an hour on the bill of Johnson of Chatham to amend the laws relating to practice of veterinary surgery and finally passed the bill. The house adjourned to meet at noon tomorrow.

The house passed a bill by Johnston of Halifax to require cities and towns with not over 10,000 population to publish reports of their receipts and disbursements annually and approved the measure by the delegate from Durham to protect the public from false advertising and fraudulent sales.

The senate passed a joint resolution to require the industrial commission and the insurance commissioner to make certain reports relating to their offices to the general assembly. The senate adjourned until noon tomorrow.

DISPATCH
Seneca, Mo.

MAY 15 1931

GOVERNOR KILLS LYNCHING BILL

ALSO VETOES BOOKMAKING BILL SPONSORED BY ST. LOUIS SPORTS

The anti-lynching bill passed by the Missouri legislature, intended to put more teeth in the laws against mobs and lynchings, was vetoed last Tuesday by Governor Caulfield.

The chief executive rejected the measure, a bill by Sen. Michael Kinney, democrat, of St. Louis, because it did not provide for punishment of county officers, such as sheriffs and prosecutors who usually are directly involved in lynchings. The bill would merely have further complicated the present statutes against lynchings, the chief executive said, adding that what was need was a drastic provision where officers guilty of neglect of duty could be dimissed by the governor or supreme court.

The governor also vetoed a bill passed in the interest of horse racing, which was sponsored by St. Louis sportsmen. This bill reduced the penalty for bookmaking. The governor thinks the present law is better than the new bill provided.

Lynchings-1931

Legislation Relating to.

3413

SUN

Pittsburg, Kans

MAY 14 1931

No Teeth in a Bill.

Governor Caulfield over in Missouri has vetoed the so-called anti-lynching bill which the legislature passed recently. The bill was one of a number introduced soon after the lynching of the negro Gunn at Maryville. The measure provided prison terms or heavy fines or both for state or municipal officers who failed to do their duty in protecting prisoners from mobs.

The governor found two points of vital weakness in the bill sent to him. One was that it provided punishment for state or municipal officers who neglected their duty. But it overlooked the one officer who is responsible for the protection of prisoners, the county sheriff. No county officer is mentioned by the bill. The sheriff is a county officer, the courts have held, and not a state officer. Therefore, the governor said, the bill would accomplish nothing.

The second point of weakness was that it made no change in the present statute concerning the trial of officers charged with failure to perform their duty. The present law makes no provision enabling the state to take a change of venue. The trial of a person accused of mob violence must be tried in the same county in which he allegedly committed the crime and in that county the state of the public mind, as the governor says, is not favorable to conviction. As the bill passed at the late session of the legislature makes no provision for a change of venue to another county where a fair trial can be had and an impartial jury selected, the governor could see no advantage in putting it on the statute book.

With its weaknesses Governor Caulfield considered the bill would be a bad thing, as it might make the public believe the measure security against mobs when in fact it is nothing of the sort.

The governor proposes, however, a bill with real teeth in it. His proposal is a measure that would provide a tribunal outside the county to remove summarily the derelict officers. He suggests the supreme court or the governor.

Attempting to punish those responsible for lynchings, either through negligence as an official or through actual participation as a member of a mob in the vicinity from which the mob was created, has been shown to be folly time after time.

IF AT FIRST—

Call

The anti-lynching bill passed by the legislature, Senator Kinney's measure, has been disapproved by Governor Caulfield. The reasons he gives for the veto are that the measure by limiting responsibility to municipal and state officials, and omitting sheriffs who are county officials, leaves the situation just as it is without any special anti-lynching law. Sheriffs have almost exclusively the responsibility of protecting prisoners from violence. Under legislation already existing murder by mob is subject to penalty, but because change of venue is not permitted, trial is always in the county where, because of complicity, the state of the public mind is not favorable to conviction. The governor says the remedy lies in providing a tribunal outside the county which can summarily remove derelict officers.

5-15-31

We are disappointed that after all Missouri has taken no effective step toward doing away with mob rule. Whether the governor is right that it is best to make a fresh start, or whether an effective law could have been arrived at easier by amending the Kinney measure in the next session of the legislature, no one knows. At least this can be said, public sentiment as shown by the votes in both houses of the legislature is against lynching. We refuse to believe that those who voted for the Kinney measure meant to exempt sheriffs from responsibility. We look forward to their registering again their desire for law observance and for the passage of a measure which will stop lynching.

Kansas City

One gain made during the consideration of this measure will count heavily for the next effort—Negroes have learned that one way to get what they want, is to go after it.

A FORWARD STEP

Argus

The passing of the Kinney Anti-Lynching Bill in both the house and the senate last week is a forward step in this state toward law enforcement and the curbing of that form of lawlessness which is commonly called lynching. Efforts to pass such a law in previous sessions of the legislature during the past ten years have failed, notwithstanding the fact that the Republicans were in the majority. The leaders of this party have always approached the subject of an anti-lynching law with an attitude of fear and suspicion, regarding such legislation purely as a favor to the Negroes.

5-8-31

The political aspect of such a law played an important part at all times when the bill was under consideration. The party leaders reasoned that to pass such a law might alienate a few white votes from the rural districts, but, as to the Negro vote, they figured that it was already counted for the G. O. P. There is no doubt in our mind but that had the Republican party in the state of Missouri been in the majority in both the house and the senate during the present session of the legislature, no anti-lynch law of any kind would have passed both houses. The larger the party majorities, the less chance there is of making such a law.

St. Louis, Mo.

Senator Kinney's anti-lynching bill, which is soon to become a law in the state, was sponsored in both the house and the senate by Democrats. And while the opposition was not strong enough to defeat the bill, yet it should be remembered that the chief opponents were Republicans. Representative George F. Heege of St. Louis county, who calls himself one of our "good Republicans," led the attack on the measure in the house.

And while we do not believe that the Democrats in passing the anti-lynching bill had in mind the influencing of the Negro vote, yet we are quite sure that the Negroes of the state will see the Democratic party in a different light to what they have in the past.

STANDARD

Milan, Mo.

APR 23 1931

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL PASSED BY DEMOCRATS

The Missouri House of Representatives, Democratic, reconsidered the action taken last week in defeating the Bourk-Lafferty Anti-Lynching Bill designed to prevent mob violence in Missouri, and by a vote of 81 to 28 passed the measure and sent it to the Senate for consideration.

The motion to reconsider the vote was made by Representative B. H. Rucker, of Phelps county, Democrat, who voted against the bill the day before when it lost, 67 to 20. It lacked nine votes of the constitutional majority necessary for passage.

The vote to reconsider was taken without discussion.

The bill was introduced early in the session by Representatives Gil P. Bourk and William H. Lafferty, of Jackson county, following the lynching of a negro near Maryville, Mo., for the murder of a young woman school teacher. Bourk and Lafferty both represent districts in Kansas City, which have a large negro population.

Under the terms of the bill, a mob is defined as three or more persons banded together to do violence. Penalty for conviction of lynching is fixed at death or life imprisonment, and for attempted lynching at not less than two or more than twenty-one years in the penitentiary.

The bill further provides that if any person should be taken from the hands of a sheriff or other peace officer and lynched, it shall be evidence of neglect of duty, and the governor would be required to declare the office vacant.

Representative Heege, Republican, of St. Louis, opposed the bill. It was passed by Democratic votes, which fact the negro voters of Kansas City will not forget in coming elections.—Missouri Democrat.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

MAY 1 - 1931

Antilynching Bill Affecting Officers Approved by House

Measure Designed to Protect Prisoners from Mob Violence.

By HUME B. DUVAL,
Globe-Democrat Staff Correspondent

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., April 30.—The Kinney antilynching bill levying heavy penalties upon peace officers who, through negligence, permit prisoners to fall into the hands of a mob, was passed by the House today by a vote of 95 to 5. The bill now goes to Gov. Caulfield for his approval.

The measure was introduced in the Senate by Senator Michael Kinney of St. Louis and was sponsored in the House by Representatives George Calvin of Franklin County and Albert A. Huber and Frank Clegg, Negro, of St. Louis. The provisions of the bill are not so drastic as those of a similar bill which passed the House and is now awaiting third reading in the Senate.

Provides Life Sentence.

Under the terms of the Kinney bill any officer having in his custody a prisoner shall be guilty of a felony in the event that such officer conspires or confederates with any person to permit the prisoner to be taken from his custody for the purpose of being injured or put to death without authority of law. All persons convicted of conspiring with any officer for such a purpose also would be adjudged guilty of a felony. The punishment is fixed at life imprisonment in the Penitentiary or imprisonment not less than five years.

An officer who is convicted of failing to make all appropriate efforts to prevent mob action which results in the death or injury of a prisoner would be guilty of a felony with the punishment fixed at not exceeding five years' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding $5000 or both.

Pending Bill Provides Ouster.

The House bill pending in the Senate provided that any official who should permit a prisoner to fall into the hands of a mob would be removed from office by an order issued by the Governor. As originally introduced, it also provided the death penalty for persons convicted of participating in a lynching.

The general statutes of the state covering murder are applicable to participants in mob violence which results in the death of a prisoner seized from a peace officer.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.
NEWS-PRESS

MAY 1 - 1931

MISSOURI'S ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Many states have acquired anti-lynching laws in recent years, and Missouri finally has caught step. The legislature has passed a bill designed to discourage mob violence, and it may have a restraining effect, though on its face it is less thoroughgoing than similar measures in other states. The Missouri bill, now in the hands of Governor Caulfield, provides that if any officer having custody of a prisoner conspires with a person to permit the prisoner to be taken from him, such officer shall be adjudged guilty of a felony and be liable to a fine or imprisonment or both. The person so conspiring with the officer would be equally guilty.

The Pennsylvania law, for example, provides for a fine of $10,000 to be imposed upon any county where a lynching takes place, for use of the family of the victim, and makes an officer of the law from whose hands a prisoner is taken and lynched guilty of a felony, punishable by five years' imprisonment or a fine of $5,000.

A defect of the Missouri bill appears to be in the frequent recurrence of the word "conspiracy." Conspiracy is difficult to prove, particularly in a community where the sympathy is overwhelmingly with the mob and against established law and order. Conceivably, a mob might take a prisoner from a sheriff without a word being spoken on either side. Would there be "conspiracy" in such an incident, within the meaning of the Missouri bill? And yet the sheriff who weakly yielded custody in such a manner certainly would be derelict in his duty.

Presumably, Governor Caulfield will sign the bill, on the theory that even a groping, half-hearted law is better than no law at all on the grave subject of the lynching evil.

Mo. Governor Vetoes Anti-Lynch Bill

Afro-American

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(By Wire)—Governor Caulfield vetoed the Missouri anti-lynching bill this week. It had passed both houses and his signature was expected. Governor is ordinarily fair to Negroes.

5-16-31

His reason given was that the bill provided punishment only for state and municipal officers, exempting sheriffs in county where lynching occurred.

Baltimore

He advised new and more forceful bill, calling measure before him inadequate.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
TIMES

MAY 2 - 1931

Anti-Lynching Bill Passed by House

JEFFERSON CITY, May 1.—The house late yesterday passed the Kinney anti-lynching bill, directed against peace officers who do not protect their prisoners. The bill, which was offered by Senator Michael Kinney of St. Louis, previously passed the senate and now goes to Governor Caulfield for his approval.

The measure provides imprisonment not to exceed five years and $5,000 fine for officers who conspire with mobs and do not protect their prisoners. It also makes the members of a mob guilty of a felony.

Representative Al Huber of St. Louis, author of a similar house bill, handled the measure on the floor of the house.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
REPUBLICAN

MAY 21 1931

Lynch Law in Rural Counties

~~Reading~~ that the Missouri Legislature had passed an antilynching bill with teeth in it, one might have rejoiced at this demonstration of progress. The governor has vetoed it, however, on the ground that it makes no provision for the punishment of county sheriffs guilty of neglect of duty. The omission was vital.

The Legislature, whether with set purpose or not, provided for the punishment of acts of neglect by a state or a municipal officer. A sheriff is not a state or municipal officer, according to repeated rulings of the Missouri supreme court; it follows that the Legislature exempted from the bill's penalties the one official upon whom falls almost exclusively the task of protecting prisoners from mob violence.

The governor declared it to be the "high duty" of the sheriff to stand off mobs; and that is something gained. He also recommended that a bill be passed creating a tribunal, outside of the county, empowered to remove a derelict county official. And that is an excellent idea. But Missouri has its "county rings"; they will never permit such a bill as the governor recommends to pass. The rural counties are the stronghold of mob law.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
TIMES

MAY 28 1931

Eastern Defense of Governor Caulfield's Veto of Missouri's Antilynching Bill

From the New York Sun.

Governor Caulfield of Missouri has vetoed an antilynching bill passed by the legislature of that state on the ground that it failed to place on sheriffs sufficient responsibility for protecting prisoners from mobs. The measure proposed to punish with fines and imprisonment state and municipal officers failing to do their duty, but a sheriff, the governor said, in an officer belonging to neither of these classifications. The governor pointed out a further weakness in the legislation:

> Lynching is murder, punishable by death, but the present statute against murder is not effective to punish lynching because the state is not allowed to take a change of venue, and prosecution must be held in the county where the crime occurred, and where, usually, the state of the public mind is not favorable to conviction. This bill would suffer from the same infirmity, and it would have no effect to prevent lynching.

Sheriff's, the governor might have added, not only are supposed to keep their prisoners in safe custody but also are primarily responsible in Missouri for summoning jurors. In rural counties the sheriff's office represents also about the only moderately efficient police force or constabulary. To exempt the sheriff from punitive provisions of the statue would amount almost to nullification in any county wherein that official's sympathy happened to be with the mob.

Lynching is a crime that can be stopped whenever the people of a community or state really want to stop it; it will be stopped whenever and wherever constituted authority is firmly resolved to do its duty and courts and juries can be depended upon to see that appropriate punishment is meted out to the guilty.

TRIBUNE
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MAY 27 1931

How Lynching Thrives

(The ~~New York~~ Sun)

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Lynchings-1931.
Legislation Relating to.

3414

SHAWNEE, OKLA.
MORNINGS NEWS
JUN 10 1931

What Others Say

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ENID, OKLA.
EAGLE
JUN 8 1931

CONTEMPORARY PRESS

HOW LYNCHING THRIVES

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HOUSTON, TEX.
POST DISPATCH
JUL 7 1931

Anti-Lynching Legislation

IF the Republicans organize the next house of representatives, the proponent of Federal legislation to punish lynchers will become chairman of the house judiciary committee, and the forces in congress favorable to Federal anti-lynching laws, would be put into a better position. Representative Dyer, author of the proposed anti-lynching law, which has failed in several congresses, is in line for the judiciary committee chairmanship, now that the former chairman, George Scott Graham, has died. If the Democrats organize the house at the next session, Representative Hatton Sumners of Dallas likely will be named judiciary committee chairman.

While Mr. Dyer would be able to exert more influence in behalf of his anti-lynching measure, if he were chairman of the committee whose duty it would be to report it out, the fact that he was chairman of this committee would not be an assurance by any means that the bill could be passed. Indeed, with the Democratic forces in congress so largely augmented since the last election, the chances for the Dyer bill being passed in the next session are really smaller than they were in previous sessions when the Republicans had large majorities.

Democratic members of congress rather generally have opposed the Dyer bill on the ground that it provided for the Federal government to enter the States and usurp States' police power. Chief support for the bill has come from Republicans who, as a rule, are less respectful of the doctrine of States' rights, and who undertake to cater to the negro voter. Anti-lynching legislation makes a strong appeal to the negro voters, and politicians in the North where there are groups of negro voters which sometimes hold the balance of power in elections, find support of Federal anti-lynching laws politically helpful to them.

Last year there was a decided increase in the number of lynchings, with the result that there was much discouragement among all elements of the population opposed to lynch law. Naturally, there was a revival of agitation for Federal action to curb mob violence. Thus far this year, however, lynchings have been fewer, and it looks as though mob violence were on the decline again. If this tendency continues, interest in launching the Federal government on a movement to suppress lynching will decline. Representative Dyer, and supporters of his anti-lynching bill, will not be able to get their bill through the next congress, even should Mr. Dyer become head of the judiciary committee.

Eventually, perhaps, the question of whether the Federal government enters the field against lynchers will depend on the amount of progress the States themselves make in suppressing this evil. If the States move vigorously to punish members of mobs, as North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia have done in recent years, and if State officers are alert in repelling and foiling mobs, the need for Federal action against lynchers will not be impressive. The latest report from Tuskegee institute on lynching for this year reveals that while there have been only about half a dozen mob murders, officers of the law have prevented more than 30 such outrages, which indicates that officialdom is set against mob law, and is not disposed to wink at such action.

Of course, if the States abdicate their responsibility in dealing with mobs, the Federal government is likely to assume that responsibility. Enlightened public opinion in this country condemns lynching, and demands that it be eradicated. If the States don't unseat Judge Lynch, the time will come when the Federal government will do so.

RECORD
COLUMBIA, S. C.
JUN 29 1931

INDIANA'S ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Lynchings at Marion, Indiana, last year, caused the Indiana legislature to write a drastic anti-lynching law which Governor Leslie has signed.

If a prisoner is taken from the custody of a sheriff or deputy and lynched, the governor is by law directed at once to suspend the sheriff pending investigation of the facts. If the sheriff is declared derelict in duty, he shall be adjudged guilty of a felony and imprisoned from three to ten years.

There are also provided heavy money penalties against county and city or town where an attempted lynching occurs; and the heirs of one lynched shall receive damages. Counties are also made liable for property damage committed by mobs.

The Indiana law will in all probability put sheriffs on their mettle—and certainly many sheriffs throughout the whole country need such a stimulus as this law provides.—Asheville Times.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
Leader
JUN 8 - 1931

Wisconsin Asks for Anti-Lynching Law

MADISON—Congress was asked by the Wisconsin legislature yesterday to pass a federal anti-lynching act. The resolution deplored numerous lynchings and violent deaths at the hands of mobs in the past years.

OHIO'S MOB VIOLENCE ACT

Gazette 10-3-31 Cleveland,

OR ANTI-LYNCHING LAW LEADS THE COUNTRY IN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

Against the Mob and Lynch-Murder—Three Years' Work of a Member of the Race—Also His Ohio Civil Rights Law.

Our mob-violence or anti-lynching bill was introduced in the Ohio legislature in 1894 and re-introduced in 1896. It took the Hon. Harry C. Smith, editor of The Gazette, just three years to secure its enactment into law. The Ohio Supreme Court has several times upheld the constitutionality of the law and it has been very effective. Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have followed Ohio's lead and enacted mob violence or anti-lynching laws which are copies of our Ohio law. Several other northern states and at least one border state (Kentucky) have also enacted anti-lynching laws, in recent years, like Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Ohio law follows:

MOBS.

Section	
6278.	"Mob" and "lynching" defined.
6279.	"Serious injury" defined.
6280.	Damages in case of assault.
6281.	Damages in case of lynching.
6282.	Damages recoverable by legal representative of victim of lynching
6283.	Person suffering death or injury by mob trying to lynch another.
6284.	Limitations of action.
6285.	Order to include recovery and costs in tax levy.
6286.	Guardian's custody, etc., fees.
6287.	County's right of action against member of mob
6288.	County's right of action against another county.
6289.	Non-relief from prosecution.

Section 6278. A collection of people assembled for an unlawful purpose and intending to do damage or injury to any one, or pretending to exercise correctional power over other persons by violence and without authority of law, shall be deemed a "mob" for the purpose of this chapter. An act of violence by a mob upon the body of any person shall constitute a "lynching" within the meaning of this chapter. (93 v. 161 2.)

Section 6279. The term "serious injury," for the purpose of this chapter, shall include such inquiry as permanently or temporarily disables the person receiving it from earning a livelihood by manual labor. (93 v. 161 3.)

Section 6280. A person taken from officers of justice by a mob and assaulted with whips, clubs, missiles or in any other manner, may recover, as hereafter provided, a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars as damages from the county in which the assault is made. (93 v. 161 4.)

Section 6281. A person assaulted and lynched by a mob may recover, from the county in which such assault is made a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars; or, if the injury received therefrom is serious, a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars; or, if such injury result in permanent disability, to earn a livelihood by manual labor, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars. (93 v. 12 5.)

Section 6282. The legal representative of a person dying from injuries received from lynching by a mob, may recover of the county in which such injury occurred, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars damages for such unlawful killing. Such sum shall be applied to the maintenance of the family and education of the minor children of such person so lynched, if any survive him, until such children are of legal age, and then be distributed to the survivors, share and share alike, the widow receiving an amount equal to a child's share. If there be no widow or minor children surviving such decedent, such sum shall be distributed among the next of kin according to the laws of the distribution of the personality of an intestate. Such sum so recovered shall not be a part of the estate of such person so lynched, nor be subject to any of his liabilities. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6283. A person suffering death or injury from a mob attempting to lynch another person shall come within the provisions of this

chapter. He or his legal representatives shall have a like right of action as one purposely injured or killed by such a mob. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6284. Action for the recoveries provided for in this chapter must be commenced, within two years from the date of such lynching, in any court having original jurisdiction of an action for damages for malicious assault. (93 v. 162 7.)

Section 6285. An order to the commissioners of a county, against which such recovery is had, to include it with the costs of action, in the next succeeding tax levy for such county, shall be a part of the judgment in every such case. (93 v. 162 8.)

Section 6286. If the decedent so lynched has minor children surviving him, the fund shall be turned over to a regularly appointed guardian. Such guardian shall administer such fund under the direction of the probate judge, allowing not more than five hundred dollars for counsel fees in the action for such recovery. (93 v. 162 9.)

Section 6287. The county, in which a lynching occurs, may recover the amount of a judgment and costs against it in favor of the legal representatives of a person killed or seriously injured by a mob from any of the persons composing such mob. A person present, with hostile intent, at such lynching shall be deemed a member of the mob and be liable to such action. (93 v. 162 10.)

Section 6288. If a mob carries a prisoner into another county, or comes from another county to commit violence on a prisoner brought from such county for safekeeping, the county in which the lynching is committed may recover the amount of the judgment and costs from the county from which the mob came, unless there was contributory negligence on the part of officials of such county in failing to protect such prisoner or dispurse such mob. (93 v. 163 11.)

Section 6289. This chapter shall not relieve a person concerned in such lynching from prosecution for homicide or assault for engaging therein. (93 v. 163 12.)

OUR OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW

Upon the request of many readers of The Gazette we print below the text of the Hon. Harry C. Smith's Ohio Civil Rights law which the editor had enacted while a member of the 71st General Assembly, in 1894:

The General Code of Ohio:

Sec. 12940. Whoever, being the proprietor or his employee, keeper or manager of an inn, restaurant, eating house, barber-shop, public conveyance by land or water, theater or other place of public accommodation and amusement, denies to a citizen, except for reasons applicable alike to all citizens and regardless of race or color, the full enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days, or both.

Sec. 12941. Whoever violates the next preceding section shall also pay not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundreds dollars to the person aggrieved thereby to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county where such offense was committed.

This law has repeatedly been held constitutional and good law by the Ohio Supreme court. The trouble is our people will not use it as often as they should, but expect it to do for them what they should and must do for themselves, under it, ~~in the~~ courts.

Wichita Falls, Tex.
TIMES

JUL 12 1931

THE ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURE

The death of Congressman George Scott Graham of New York may result, indirectly, in bringing to a head the move for a federal anti-lynching law. Congressman Dyer of St. Louis, author of the anti-lynching bill, is now the ranking Republican member of the house judiciary committee, so that if the Republicans control the next house, he will be in position to urge action on his bill. Southern members of congress are viewing the possibility with some concern.

Meanwhile, figures compiled by Tuskegee institute show that there were relatively few lynchings in the first six months of 1931. Only five were reported. In the same period, peace officers gave effective protection to 30 persons threatened by mob violence, and in some instances had to offer physical resistance to would-be lynchers.

We may be very sure that if 1930's ugly record of mob violence is repeated, the demand for federal anti-lynching legislation will become so strong that it will be difficult for congress to resist it. The South's duty is to show its ability to curb mob violence, to demonstrate to the country that there is no need of federal legislation on the subject.

Lynchings-1931

Legislation Relating to

3415

ST. LOUIS, MO.
STAR
JAN 15 1931

STERILIZATION LAW URGED AS RESULT OF LYNCHING

JEFFERSON CITY, Jan. 14.—(Special.)—As an aftermath of the lynching of Raymond Gunn by a Maryville mob Tuesday, Representative Job of Nodaway County, of which Maryville is the county seat, plans to introduce a bill providing for the sterilization of habitual criminals and criminally insane persons.

An unofficial investigation of the lynching probably will be undertaken by Attorney General Shartel.

ANTI-LYNCHING LAWS

Reporter 1-17-31

Indianapolis, Ind.

The move started by a Fort Wayne civic organization to have an act passed by the legislature to amend the present Indiana laws against lynching is logically commendable.

The terrible happening at Marion last August, and the more recent horrible Marysville, Mo., mob violence demonstration are gruesome evidence of the need for not only legislation with sufficient teeth in it, but a more pronounced and concerted public condemnation of the barbarous practice to wipe it out forever from the face of the earth.

A law, however effective in its professed intents, is as useless as no law at all if its mission is to be handicapped and blocked by the agencies of political procrastination, favoritism, class hatred, narrow one-sidedness in its enforcement and numerous other hypocritical methods of scuttling civilization and decency.

It is true that if Indiana is to retrieve its reputation as a fit place in which to live, steps must be taken to make that possible.

Now that definite steps are being taken in that connection, it is to be hoped that the act, if passed, will have the full support of not only the people but of the servants of the cities, and counties of the State.

The embodiment of the proposed Indiana lynch law amendment is a creditable piece of legislative material. If passed and enforced courageously and honestly, the lyncher will think twice and change his mind before snuffing out the lives of bonefide citizens without due process of law.

Introduce Antilynching Bill in Indiana Legislature

Defender 1-24-31

Chicago, Ill.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., Jan. 23.—An antilynching bill was presented to the Indiana legislature Friday, Jan. 16, by Representatives Chester K. Williams and Fred S. Galloway of Indianapolis, following the passing of a resolution by the Fort Wayne Civic league.

A campaign is being started to have citizens all over Indiana send letters urging their representatives to vote for the measure.

The resolution, drawn up by the legal committee of the Fort Wayne Civic league, is signed by William L. Briggs, chairman; Nathan L. Hudson, secretary; Sam C. Jones, Edgar J. Unthank, William McDonald, James Lindsay and Silas Miles.

P. A. Lyons is president of the league; Samuel Murray, Fred Strong and Sam C. Jones, vice presidents, and Edgar J. Unthank, secretary.

The State Anti-Lynching Bill Silences Critics.

That the states of the south and their governing officials are determined to put an end to all forms of mob violence should be evident throughout the country, despite the recurrence of lynchings every now and then. Backed by a press that is demanding the elimination of mobs from the life of the southland and by the most intelligent thought of the section, governors and other officials of southern states have been acting promptly and with determination both in cases where lynchings are threatened and where they have already taken place.

Commercial Appeal 1-29-31

Memphis Tenn.

Those members of Congress who may still have ideas about a federal anti-lynching bill should take into consideration these facts. They should also consider the additional fact that the sentiment against lynching has reached the point in Tennessee where an anti-lynching bill is introduced in the state Legislature. This bill, if one is to judge from the press reports about it, is just about as drastic as the Dyer bill or any other federal enactment so far proposed. According to the press resume of the measure it provides for the immediate suspension from office of any official or officer in charge of a prisoner who is lynched.

As a matter of fact, the bill may be more drastic than constitutional. While providing for immediate suspension of officers who do not prevent a lynching, the measure also makes provision for ouster proceedings within 10 days. In these proceedings, contrary to the established procedure in all criminal cases, the accused will be presumed to be guilty of negligence through the mere fact that a lynching occurred. However, accused officials or officers would have the right to defend themselves and to gain reinstatement through a favorable decision in their behalf.

Surely no congressman from Vermont or Maine could demand anything more drastic than this. Filing ouster proceedings in lynching cases can be fully justified, but there can hardly be the same justification for any law that would hold anyone guilty in advance of a hearing. There can be lynchings that everything humanly possible was done to prevent.

N. C. INTRODUCES BILL AGAINST LYNCHING

1-24-31

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 22—(ANP)—To prevent lynchings in the State of North Carolina, Senator Lawrence of Hartford, Thursday introduced a bill which would require officers to incarcerate prisoners charged with capital crime or rape in the state prison or in the jail of a county other than where the crime was committed.

TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE GETS LYNCHING BILL

1-27-31

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 26.—(AP)—Bills providing for the immediate suspension from office of any officer in charge of a prisoner who is lynched were introduced in both houses of the Tennessee legislature tonight.

Within ten days after the lynching the district attorney general under the bill would file ouster proceedings against the officer on the ground that the taking of the prisoner from his custody was a presumption of negligence. The officer would have an opportunity to resist the allegations at his trial. If he won a favorable decision, the officer would be reinstated, regardless of whether an appeal was taken.

MISSOURI LAW AGAINST MOBS SUGGESTED

Call 1-16-31

Kansas City Mo.

Proposed Bill Would Be Patterned After Law In Virginia

A suggested anti-lynching law for Missouri has been drawn up by L. Amassa Knox, for former representative in the state assembly, and forwarded to Representative Gil P. Bourke, of the fourth legislative district, who is now sitting with the assembly in the state capitol at Jefferson City.

Mr. Knox drafted his suggestions for a state law immediately after the burning alive of Raymond Gunn at Maryville, Mo., last Monday. The tentative draft is patterned closely after the anti-lynching law now in effect in Virginia. There have been no lynchings in Virginia since its state law went into effect. Missouri at present has no state law to punish lynching.

Mr. Knox has written Rep. Bourke requesting him to introduce a bill for anti-lynching law and suggesting that his draft be used as a basis. The suggested bill defines a mob and a lynching, makes every member of a mob which kills a person liable to a charge of murder, makes it mandatory that the county prosecuting attorneys conduct a full investigation and fix blame and provides that representatives of persons injured or killed by mobs may sue mob members for damages.

Mr. Knox also attached, for Rep. Bourke's information, a list of persons lynched in the state of Missouri since 1889. Eighty-nine lynchings have taken place in the state and 23 of these were of white persons.

HEBREWS FROWN ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

1-23-31

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 22.—(AP)—Rejection of a proposal to indorse an anti-lynching bill pending in congress and the adoption of another resolution denouncing the Cable registration of aliens bill featured the closing session today of the 32d biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Speakers against the anti-lynching proposal argued that such a bill would fail "for the same reason that prohibition has failed—public sentiment is against it."

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ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION VOTED DOWN BY JEWS

1-30-31

PHILADELPHIA. —(CNS) The Union of American Hebrew Congregations voted down a proposed Federal anti-lynching legislation at the annual meeting of the union here last Thursday. The many speakers pointed out that such legislation was a matter for the States and not the Federal Government.

MO. BILL WOULD MAKE KILLING BY MOB MURDER

Afro-American 1-31-31

Baltimore, Md.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—A bill which would define a participant in a mob as a murderer and levy damages on the state as compensation to families of the victim, has been offered in the State legislature by Representative Gil. F. Bourk (Dem.), Kansas City.

The bill, which came as an aftermath of the recent lynching of Raymond Gunn at Maryville, is the second anti-lynching measure offered by Representative Bourk. The first measure was turned down by the body because they regarded it as too drastic.

Provides Punishment.

The Bourk measure provides for the punishment of members of the mob, the investigation fo all mob violence, and defines the killing by mob violence as murder.

A mob is defined as "a collection of people, assembled for the purpose and with the intention of committing an assault or battery upon any person, without authority of law"; and "any act of violence by a mob upon the body of any person shall constitute a lynching within the meaning of the act."

Murder.

Not only would the participants of the mob be regarded as murderers in cases where their acts ended in the death of a victim, but the bill provides that it shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the lynching may occur, or the circuit attorney of St. Louis, to promptly endeavor to learn the identity of the members of the mob and bring them to trial.

CITIZENS ASK NEW ANTI-LYNCH LAW OF INDIANA LEGISLATURE

Recorder
1-31-31

Recently Introduced Measure Provides For Sheriff's Removal By Governor's Proclamation In Case Of Riots In County.

Indianapolis, Indiana

By Staff Correspondont

A more stringent law against lynching was presented in the house of Indiana general assembly last Saturday. The newly introduced anti-lynching bill apparently saw the light as a direct result of the lynching in Marion last August of Abe Smith and Thomas Shipp.

The bill, was introduced by Representatives Chester K. Watson, of Ft. Wayne, and Fred S. Galloway, of Indianapolis, Democrats. It stipulates that lynching shall be prima facie evidence of neglect of official duty on the part of the sheriff of the county in which it occurs. The bill provides for the removal of the sheriff by proclamation of the governor The county coroner would succeed to the office of sheriff and serve until a new official is elected.

The measure also would make the county, city or town in which a lynching occurs liable for damages to the survivors of the lynched person in the sum of $5,000. Persons injured by a mob would be entitled to damages of $10,000.00.

Persons convicted of damaging property during a lynching would be guilty of a felony and liable to 3 to 10 years' imprisonment.

The bill, which has far more "teeth" in it than the act it is intended to replace, provides that a sheriff removed from office because of lynching would be permitted to make a showing that he exercised all his powers to prevent the lynching. Upon satisfactory showing in the latter connection the dismissed official could be re-instated by the governor of the state.

When questioned recently with reference to his purposed anti-lynching bill, Representative Galloway, expressed himself to the effect that the time has come when, if the good name of Indiana is to be maintained something must be done to protect its citizens from unwarranted abuse.

It will be recalled that Representative Galloway the legitimate father of the proposed anti-lynching measure was vigorous in his condemnation of the mob law evil throughout the recent campaign.

A delegation composed of Fort Wayne and Indianapolis citizens appeared before the house committee Tuesday and presented their views in regard to the proposed anti-lynching bill. Attorney F. B. Ransom of the Mme. Walker Company acted as chairman of the delegation.. Attorney Wm. L. Briggs president of the Fort Wayne Civic League, which sponsored the bill delivered an impassioned speech before the committee, in interest of the proposed anti-lynching bill.

Included in the delegation were Marcus C. Stewart, editor of The Indainapolis Recorder, together with other prominent capital city business men. Among the Fort Wayne aggregation were, P. A. Lyons, E. J. Unthank and Attorney Nathaniel Hudson.

Indications were that the house committee will report the Indiana anti-lynching bill favorably for consideration by the house.

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW.

Recorder

The move launched recently by the Fort Wayne Civic League to amend the existing state laws on lynching is a step in the right direction. 1-31-31

The new bill as formulated by the league was presented with a resolution to Chester K. Watson, joint representative of the Fort Wayne district who with Representatives Watson and Galloway Democrats, introduced it to the Indiana legislature. The bill together with the resolution accompanying it was supported editorially in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette in its issue of January 11th. Indianapolis, Indiana

The necessity for an anti-lynching bill with the required number of sharpened teeth in it to wipe the evil from the face of the commonwealth is an established fact. What is needed now is much more interest of the unidvided sort demonstrated by citizens in the enactment of the proposed law. Every effort should be exerted by Hoosiers interested in the welfare of the state to bring about the inauguration of such a law in Indiana. Citizens of the state, both colored and white are being requested to send letters to their own representatives as well as to Representatives Watson and Galloway urging them to support and vote for the passage of the anti-lynching bill.

Indiana must not be allowed to remain in the disgraceful category of a lynch state. As such the commonwealth, reputed for its enviable record for protecting the rights of its citizens will be entirely out of place. The time has arrived when every Negro resident should do his part to HELP INDIANA out of the objectionable company into which that state has unwittingly fallen by writing to Representatives Chester Watson and Fred S. Galloway, and request them to do everything in their power to have this bill against the lynching curse passed.

Of course, if passed, the law, which meets every requirement presented in the situation, must be enforced honestly and courageously. It is within the power of the people to see that this is done.

RECORDER
Indianapolis, Ind
JAN 31 1931

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Lynchings - 1931
Legislation Relating to.

3416

MANDAN, N. D.
EVE. PIONEER

FEB 1 4 1931

MARTIN FAVORS LYNCHING WHEN GUILT PROVEN

MORTON CO. SENATOR COMMENDS ACTION OF MOB IN BANNON CASE

Death Penalty Fails 21 to 28

SENATORS WAX ORATORICAL IN THE ARGUMENTS OVER ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT

(By The Associated Press)

Efforts to restore capital punishment in North Dakota failed in the state senate yesterday following a debate during which lynch law was advocated by one member.

Eleven members participated in the debate on a minority report of the state affairs committee recommending passage of the bill. The report was rejected by a 28 to 21 vote, and the majority report to kill the proposal adopted. Party lines were disrupted.

Senator W. E. Martin of Morton county, one of the few survivors of frontier days, told the senate he favored lynch law as a deterrent to crime, but refused to endorse capital punishment.

The murder of six members of the A. E. Haven family on their farm near Schafer, and the subsequent lynching of the confessed slayer, Charles Bannon, figured prominently in the debate, several members contending that the murders and the lynching would not have occurred had capital punishment been on the statute books.

Senator James P. Cain of Stark county, who sponsored the measure together with Senator Frank E. Ployhar of Barnes county, touched off the oratorical display with a brief plea in favor of the bill.

Only By Jury Vote

He pointed out that the death penalty, under the bill, could not be imposed unless recommended by a jury.

Supporting the bill were Senators J. E. Eastgate of Grand Forks county, P. O. Sathre of Steele-Griggs, A. W. Fowler of Cass, F. H. Hyland of Ramsey, and Lynn Sperry of Burleigh, while opposed were Senators W. D. Lynch of La Moure, E. C. Stucke of McLean, Dell Patterson of Renville, D. H. Hamilton of McHenry, and Martin.

Senator Martin made an impasten the innocent man is convicted and sentenced to pay the extreme penalty.

Advocates Lynch Law

Senator Martin, however, advocated that lynching is an effective deterrent to crime. He defended the action of the McKenzie county mob that hanged Charles Bannon.

"Don't be in a hurry to hang a man," Martin declared. "Don't take a chance with a jury. But hang him when you know he is guilty. In every frontier town lynching is the only thing where you know a man is guilty. In McKenzie county, they did the only thing they could do."

Later in the debate, when Senator Sperry, in supporting the bill, declared murderers such as William Hickman, executed in California, should die, Senator Martin interjected "if he was up in McKenzie county, he would."

Senator Cain called the senate's attention to the present statutes providing the death penalty for treason, and where a convicted slayer commits murder while under sentence.

"If capital punishment deters sioned talk against it declaring the poor man has no fair opportunity to prove his innocence before a jury. He stated that too ofthe crime of treason and the killing on the part of a person sentenced to life, it will deter other murders.

"If this law were put on the books a few weeks ago, we would not have had a lynching in McKenzie county. If there had been capital punishment, they would have been assured that the death penalty would be invoked."

Senator Lynch Opposed

Senator Lynch launched into a vigorous attack of the bill, his talk drawing applause from the members and gallery.

"All through the south," he said replying to Cain's argument," lynching is occurring more frequently than before, although they have capital punishment there. There were more lynchings in North Dakota when we had capital punishment than there is today without capital punishment.

"To deter crime, we should have better apprehension of criminals. If the man who held up the Fredonia bank this week knew he would be caught, he would not have committed that robbery. The only way to deter crime is to punish without delay."

He termed the deed of the mob that hanged Bannon as a greater offense than that committed by Bannon, declaring that if Bannon had spent his life in prison, the punishment so imposed would be been more severe.

Officials Blamed

Senator Hamilton told the senate that "if you want to give a man capital punishment give him a penitentiary sentence." He criticised the officials of McKenzie county for delaying trial of Bannon.

"The man in McKenzie county," he declared, "said he was guilty, but they didn't take him to court because he would not plead guilty. The state had all the evidence ever needed to convict a man, and he could have been sent to the penitentiary immediately."

Senator Hamilton stated there were 21 lynching in the state while capital punishment was a law, and only one occurred since the law was repealed.

Senator Sathre claimed that if capital punishment were in effect in the state, the McKenzie county crime would not have occurred.

"I'm willing," he said, "to leave it to 12 men or women to do their duty. Had we had capital punishment that heinous crime in Mckenzie county would not have happened. In my mind, capital punishment is a deterrent to crime."

Too often in the past, Senator Stucke contended, an innocent man has been executed because of capital punishment.

"Rather that one thousand murderers should escape than one innocent man be put to death," Stucke added.

Hits at Lawyers

Describing the bill as "uncalled for, dangerous legislation." Senator Patterson said that the innocent would suffer by the law.

"The main aim of attorneys," he declared, "is success. Right or wrong, their main object is to the fee.

"If the law were left in the hands of the people, I would not be opposed to the bill, but I know what will happen when the law is administered by attorneys. It is a crime to place a law of this kind in the hands of people who will misuse it."

Senator Fowler entered the debate to call attention to the arguments which he termed as growing out of sentiment.

"Should we be moved by sentiment," he asked, "or should we look at it in a disinterested manner as to what effect the law will have on the welfare of the people?

"We should look at this matter as lawmakers in a fair and impartial manner."

Fowler Answers

He cited statistics showing that where capital punishment was in effect, homicides had decreased, while where such punishment was abolished, homicides were higher.

Senator Hyland told the senate that steps should be taken to stop "the reign of crime in the state."

Senator Cain, in replying to the various arguments, declared that the lynching in McKenzie county grew out of the knowledge on the part of people in that section that Bannon regarded a prison sentence lightly.

"The only way the death penalty can be imposed under this bill," he added, "is where a jury recommends it. Even then a judge can set the verdict aside, an appeal can be taken to the supreme court, and action can be taken by the pardon board.

"Criminals are coming into this state with full knowledge of the law. Bank robbers would stay out if they knew that should they kill someone in committing a robbery, they would suffer the death penalty.

"Many of those who talked against the bill, voice sentiments for the criminal only. Should we not have sympathy for the widow and children bereaved by a crime."

The debate ended when Senator Walter Bond of Minot moved the previous question, thereby forcing a vote on the proposal.

When Lieutenant Governor John Carr, presiding over the senate, announced the bill had been killed by a 28 to 21 vote, senators and the gallery applauded the verdict.

For capital punishment:

Bond, Brunsdale, Cain, Eastgate, Eddy, Erickson, Fowler, Gronvold, Hyland, Jones, Miller, Murphy, Piath, Ployhar, Porter, Putnam, Renwick, Sathre, Sperry, Watt, and Whitman.

Against capital punishment:

Aandahl, Atkins, Bonzer, Brostuen, Burkhart, Crocker, Ettestad, Field, Fine, Fredrickson, Hamilton, Hoople, Kamrath, Larson, Lynch, McCrory, Magnuson, Martin, Matthaei, Marshall, Patten, Patterson, Poupore, Renauld, Stucke, Thorson, Unrah and Wog.

N. C. Senate Passes Anti-Lynching Law

Journal & Guide

2-21-31

RALEIGH, N. C.—What is believed to be the beginning of the end of mob rule in North Carolina was made here on Wednesday, Feb. 19 when the North Carolina State senate passed the Lawrence anti-lynching bill.

Norfolk Va

The bill was introduced by Senator Lawrence of Hertford on Jan. 14 and provides that sheriffs imprison persons charged with capital crimes in counties other than their own. Such a law would prevent lynchings such as occurred last year when a prisoner was taken from the Edgecombe County jail and killed by a mob.

BISMARCK, N. D.
TRIBUNE

FEB 1 4 1931

MEASURE TO HANG MURDERERS LOSES IN STATE SENATE

Capital Punishment Bill Beaten After Long Debate; Lynching Reviewed

Efforts to restore capital punishment in North Dakota failed in the state senate yesterday following a debate during which lynch law was advocated by one member.

Eleven members participated in the debate on a minority report of the state affairs committee recommending passage of the bill. The report was rejected by a 28 to 21 vote, and the majority report to kill the proposal was adopted.

Senator W. E. Martin of Morton county, one of the few survivors of frontier days, told the senate he favored lynch law as a deterrent to crime, but refused to endorse capital punishment.

The murder of six members of the A. E. Haven family on their farm near Schafer and the subsequent lynching of the confessed slayer, Charles Bannon, figured prominently in the debate. Several members contended that the murders and the lynching would not have occurred had capital punishment been on the statute books.

Senator James P. Cain of Stark county, who sponsored the measure together with Senator Frank E. Ployhar of Barnes county, touched off the oratorical display with a brief plea in favor of the bill.

He pointed out that the death penalty, under the bill, could not be imposed unless recommended by a jury.

Supporting the bill were Senators J. E. Eastgate of Grand Forks county; P. O. Sathre, of Steele-Griggs; A. W. Fowler of Cass; F. H. Hyland of Ramsey, and Lynn Sperry of Burleigh, while opposed were Senators W. D. Lynch of La Moure, E. C. Stucke of McLean, Dell Patterson of Renville, D. H. Hamilton of McHenry, and Martin.

Says Poor Man Hit

Senator Martin made an impassioned talk against it declaring the poor man has no fair opportunity to prove his innocence before a jury. He stated that too often the innocent man is convicted and sentenced to pay the extreme penalty.

Martin, however, advocated lynching as an effective deterrent to crime and defended the action of the McKenzie county mob that hanged Charles Bannon.

"Don't be in a hurry to hang a man," Martin declared. "Don't take a chance with a jury. But hang him when you know he is guilty. In every frontier town, lynching is the only thing where you know a man is guilty. In McKenzie county, they did the only thing they could do."

Later in the debate, when Senator Sperry, in supporting the bill, declared murderers such as William Hickman, executed in California, should die, Senator Martin interjected "if he was up in McKenzie county, he would."

Senator Cain called the senate's attention to the present statutes providing the death penalty for treason, and where a convicted slayer commits murder while under sentence.

"If capital punishment deters the crime of treason and the killing on the part of a person sentenced to life, it will deter other murderers.

Held Deterrent to Crime

"If this law were put on the books a few weeks ago, we would not have had a lynching in McKenzie county. If there had been capital punishment, they would have been assured that the death penalty would be invoked."

Senator Lynch launched into a vigorous attack on the bill, his talk drawing applause from the members and gallery.

"All through the south," he said, replying to Cain's argument, "lynching has occurred frequently although they have capital punishment there. There were more lynchings in North Dakota when we had capital punishment than there are today without capital punishment.

"To deter crime, we should have better apprehension of criminals. If the man who held up the Fredonia bank this week knew he would be caught, he would not have committed that robbery. The only way to deter crime is to punish without delay."

He termed the deed of the mob that hanged Bannon as a greater offense than that committed by Bannon, declaring that if Bannon had spent his life in prison, the punishment so imposed would have been more severe.

Criticizes McKenzie Officials

Hamilton told the senate "if you want to give a man capital punishment give him a penitentiary sentence." He criticized the officials of McKenzie county for delaying trial of Bannon.

"The man in McKenzie county," he declared, "said he was guilty, but they didn't take him to court because he would not plead guilty. The state had all the evidence ever needed to convict a man, and he could have been sent to the penitentiary immediately."

Hamilton stated there were 21 lynches in the state while capital punishment was a law, and only one occurred since the law was repealed.

Senator Sathre claimed that if capital punishment were in effect in the state, the McKenzie county crime would not have occurred.

"I'm willing," he said, "to leave it to 12 men or women to do their duty. Had we had capital punishment that heinous crime in McKenzie county would not have happened. In my mind, capital punishment is a deterrent to crime."

Too often in the past, Senator Stucke contended, an innocent man has been executed because of capital punishment.

"Rather than one thousand murderers should escape than one innocent man be put to death," Stucke added.

Brands Bill 'Dangerous'

Describing the bill as "uncalled for, dangerous legislation," Senator Patterson said the innocent would suffer by the law.

"The main aim of attorneys," he declared, "is success. Right or wrong, their main object is to get the fee.

"If the law were left in the hands of the people, I would not be opposed to the bill, but I know what will happen when the law is administered by attorneys. It is a crime to place a law of this kind in the hands of people who will misuse it."

Senator Fowler entered the debate to call attention to the arguments which he termed as growing out of sentiment.

"Should we be moved by sentiment," he asked, "or should we look at it in a disinterested manner as to what effect the law will have on the welfare of the people?

"We should look at this matter as lawmakers in a fair and impartial manner."

He cited statistics showing that where capital punishment was in effect homicides had decreased, while where such punishment was abolished, homicides were higher.

Stop Crime's Reign

Senator Hyland told the senate that steps should be taken to stop "the reign of crime in the state."

Senator Cain, in replying to the various arguments, declared that the lynching in McKenzie county grew out of the knowledge on the part of people in that section that Bannon regarded a prison sentence lightly.

"The only way the death penalty can be imposed under this bill," he added, "is where a jury recommends it. Evein then, a judge can set the verdict aside, an appeal can be taken to the supreme court and action can be taken by the pardon board.

"Criminals are coming into this state with full knowledge of the laws. Bank robbers would stay out if they knew that, should they kill someone in committing a robbery, they would suffer the death penalty.

"Many of those who talked against the bill, voice sentiments for the criminal only. Should we not have sympathy for the widow and children bereaved by a crime?"

The debate ended when Senator Walter Bond of Minot moved the previous question, thereby forcing a vote on the proposal.

When Lieutenant Governor John Carr, presiding over the senate, announced the bill had been killed by a 28 to 21 vote, senators and the gallery applauded the verdict.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

FEB 1 8 1931

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS KILLED BY HOUSE VOTE

Marion County Delegation Backs Measure in Bitter Fight.

Marion county representatives today were bitter over the indefinite postponement of the Watson-Galloway anti-lynching bill, 53-41, late Tuesday.

Members of this county's delegation lead the fight to send the bill on to engrossment but after a bitter debate in which Jacob Weiss (Dem., Marion) charged the attorney-general's office with lack of sincerity, the bill was killed. It provided for instant dismissal of a sheriff of the county where a lynching occurs.

Delph L. McKesson (Marshal), Democratic floor leader made the motion to postpone the measure indefinitely.

He declared such laws are unenforcable if the temper of the people is against them. There is a law now on the statute books, which provides almost a similar penalty as in this bill and it has not been enforced.

"Attorney-General James Ogden attempted to kid the public into believing he would punish leaders and members of the mob that lynched two Negroes in Marion, Aung. 7," declared Weiss.

"He began his prosecutions by publishing far and wide the names of the men he was seeking and they fled to the four corners of the earth."

Representative from Lake, Allen, Vigo and Vanderburgh counties voted with the solid Marion county delegation against killing the bill.

BELOIT, WIS., NEWS
Thursday, February 12, 1931

TENNESSEE'S EXAMPLE

PROPOSALS for anti-lynching legislation superimposed by the federal government always have met with protest from the states most directly concerned and always have gone down to defeat in congress.

The states have contended this was a problem they could deal with themselves. Yet in most instances they have done little to deal with it, and the lynching toll has gone on disgracefully increasing.

Tennessee, though, is seemingly likely to prove an exception to the policy of most states in keeping hands off and letting this evil fester and spread.

A pending measure whose passage is conceded in the Tennessee legislature would provide for automatic dismissal from office of any officer from whom a prisoner is taken by a lynching mob, the fact of a lynching being assumed to be prima facie evidence of neglect of duty on the part of the officer.

The threat of losing his job in disgrace if a mob has its way might spur many a sheriff to more resourcefulness and courage in outwitting and thwarting lynch law.

INDIANA DEMOCRATS ACT ON PICKENS TIP; PASS ANTI-LYNCH LAW

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 24.—ANP—The Democratic "House" of the Indiana Legislature passed the anti-lynching bill 34 to 1 (the 1 being a Republican) which was advocated by William Pickens in mass meeting on Sunday, February 15, and before members of the legislature at the state house on Monday. The bill was passe don Friday, the 20th.

Mr. Pickens after speaking in Indianapolis and conierring with legis lators, spoke before several Democratic clubs and other white organizations in the state, notably the Women's Democratic club, of Anderson, where he said Monday night, Feb. 16:

"Wire your Democratic representatives to pass Hr. Galloways anti-lynching bill and so put the matter squarely up to the Senate, which is Republican. The House is Democratic; and if they pass the bill and it is turned down afterwards by the Republican Senate, it will not go unnoticed by the Negro voters of Indiana." The Democratic club sent a practically unanimous request to the representative from their county to support the bill.

The Contributing Editor of A. N. P. used the same persuasive logic on Democratic members of the legislature in conference.

The Democrats seem to have taken the hint and with five days Mr. Pickens was able to wire Fred S. Galloway, Democrat, who had sponsored the bill:

"Congratulations on passages of anti-lynching bill. That puts the matter squarely up to the Republican Senate."

The Indiana Republicans are now concerned; the Democrats are smiling, the Negroes are "watchfully waiting."

Lynchings-1931

Legislation Relating to.

3417

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

MAR 8 - 1931

BILL ON LYNCHING SIGNED BY LESLIE

Governor Also Approves Measure to Limit Truck Loads and Sizes.

The House anti-lynching bill and the truck load limit measure were signed yesterday by Governor Harry Leslie.

The lynching bill, which was introduced by Representative Chester K. Watson of Fort Wayne, automatically removes from office sheriffs of counties in which lynchings occur. Provision is made, however, that sheriffs thus removed may appeal to the Governor who can reinstate the sheriff if it is shown that prisoners were forcibly taken from the officer's custody. During vacancy in the sheriff's office the county coroner becomes acting sheriff.

Another provision legalizes court action for personal injury and property damage in cases of mob violence against prisoners. Cities, counties and towns could be sued by the mob victims or their survivors in case of death.

Outgrowth of Marion Case.

The bill was an outgrowth of the lynching at Marion last August in which two Negro youths were hanged.

The truck-load limitation bill was sponsored by the state highway commission. The measure was designed to protect Indiana highways against damage from overloaded trucks. It fixed a maximum width of eight feet for trucks and busses, a maximum height of twelve feet, length of a single vehicle thirty-three feet, length of combination vehicles forty feet and the maximum weight of 16,000 pounds for each axle. The law becomes operative Jan. 1.

Another important measure signed by Governor Leslie was Senator Lee J. Hartzell's bill giving home rule in the matter of condemnation of school buildings. Jurisdiction was removed from the state board of health and the state department of education. Under the measure condemnation action on school buildings rests with boards of county commissioners on petition of not less than twenty-five legal residents of the school corporation, fifteen of whom must be resident freeholders. 'Condemnation proceedings could be started also by the state fire marshal or the health department.

Commissions Can't Be Revoked.

Another provision is that the commissions of high schools can not be revoked by the state education department because of the condition of school buildings.

A boost to the Indiana coal industry was given by another measure which the Governor approved. This bill requires all Indiana governmental institutions to use Indiana mined coal.

Two legal holidays in Indiana were created by provisions of another bill to which the Governor signed his name. The bill designates Armistice day, Nov. 11, and Discovery day, Oct. 12, as legal holidays.

A House bill—introduced by Representatives William H. Lee of Princeton and William J. Black of Anderson—providing that automatic stop signals shall be erected at any railroad crossing which the public service commission designates as especially hazardous. Cost of the signals are to be shared equally by the state and the railroad companies.

Although last midnight was the final date upon which Governor Leslie is required by law to accept bills, he said that he will receive and receipt for them Monday.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
STAR

FEB 20 1931

ANTI-LYNCH BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Measure Providing Investigation of Coasts, Ports, Waterways Approved

RALEIGH, Feb. 19.—(AP)—With the house postponing debate on the administration road bill until Monday night, the senate today passed the Lawrence anti-lynching bill and both divisions of the general assembly worked on their local and public calendars.

The house got a favorable report on the Gardner road bill, as amended in committee, this morning. Chairman Connor of the roads committee moved the bill be made a special order for tomorrow but a substitute motion to set it for Monday night was adopted.

The Lawrence bill was amended so as to exclude Cleveland county before it was passed by the senate and then a bill by Senator Folger of Surry to change the manner of appointing trustees in deeds of trust passed without opposition.

When the Hinsdale measure to change the number of voters required on a petition to abolish a special tax district was called it was opposed by Senator Whedbee of Perquimans and after debate the bill was killed on a roll call, 29 to 13. The present law requires signatures of 50 per cent of the voters in the district and the Hinsdale measure proposed to reduce this requirement to 25 per cent.

The house passed the budget advisory commission bill to allow reallocation of certain previously appropriated monies of state institutions. The bill involves about $270,000 with the University of North Carolina item for re-allotment of $140,000 the largest. The body also approved the Etheridge bill to provide for an investigation of the coasts, ports and waterways of the state.

A bill by Senator Johnson of Moore to prevent mortgagors disposing of timber from land was tabled in the senate but in quick order the Lawrence bill relating to county courts passed.

Debate was caused by the McKee bill to provide for the same punishment for married women who desert their children as is provided for men but the bill passed after a motion to refer it to a judiciary committee was defeated.

The senate made the local government finance commission bill a special order for tomorrow morning.

The house debated for more than an hour on the bill of Johnson of Chatham to amend the laws relating to practice of veterinary surgery and finally passed the bill. The house adjourned to meet at noon tomorrow.

The house passed a bill by Johnston of Halifax to require cities and towns with not over 10,000 population to publish reports of their receipts and disbursements annually and approved the measure by the delegate from Durham to protect the public from false advertising and fraudulent sales.

The senate passed a joint resolution to require the industrial commission and the insurance commissioner to make certain reports relating to their offices to the general assembly. The senate adjourned until noon tomorrow.

POST
KANSAS CITY, MO.

MAR 4 –

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS REPORTED FAVORABLY

An anti-lynching bill by Representatives Gil P. Bourk and William Lafferty of Kansas City was reported favorably today by the house criminal justice committee. The bill provides that any person participating in the lynching shall be deemed guilty of murder and defines a mob. The measure was prompted by the lynching of Raymond Gunn at Maryville January 12.

VIRGINIA'S ANTI-LYNCHING LAW STANDS UP

Journal & Guide

3-14-31

Norfolk, Va.

One white member of a Boydton (Virginia) mob has been sentenced to four years in the penitentiary and seven others are to face trial in December for yanking Milburn Neal from his home in the dead of the night, hauling him a mile out into the country, walloping him with hickory sticks and then carrying him back home.

Of course, the mob could have been rougher. It might have strung Neal up and completely lynched him properly. In view of the fact that his only crime was that he put his wife in a Catholic hospital, the mob figured the "punishment" suited the "crime."

Two features of this case are noteworthy: first, Neal is white, and second, the conviction of the white mobbist was the first secured under the Virginia anti-lynching law, designed to protect Negroes from lawless whites.

Backwoodsmen Neal probably never heard of the anti-lynching law before, and if he had known about it, he would probably have opposed its enactment into law; and yet, he is its first beneficiary.—A
AMERICAN.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

FEB 25 1931

Anti-Lynching Bill Fails Before Group

RALEIGH, Feb. 25.—(AP)—The Lawrence anti-lynching bill, passed by the senate, received an unfavorable committee report in the house today, which customarily means the death of a measure.

The bill would have required incarceration of prisoners charged with capital crimes in jails outside of the counties in which the crimes were committed if the solicitor deemed it necessary.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

MAR

Anti-Lynching Measure Signed by Gov. Leslie

Bill Rising From Marion Mob Hanging Is Now State Law.

Governor Harry G. Leslie today signed the Watson anti-lynching bill providing for summary dismissal of sheriffs implicated in lynching cases, and recovery of damages by heirs of lynched persons.

Introduced by Representative Chester K. Watson (Dem., Allen) as an aftermath of the Marion lynching, in which two Negro youths were hanged by an infuriated mob for the murder of a white youth whom they encountered on a lonely country road, and an assault on his girl companion.

The measure makes a sheriff from whose custody prisoners are taken and lynched guilty of negligence of duty, and provides for his dismissal with a saving clause permitting him to show cause for reinstatement within two weeks. Heirs of lynched persons, the bill provides, may recover damages of between $5,000 and $10,000.

ANTI-LYNCH MEASURE IS PASSED BY IND. HOUSE

Courier
3-7-31
Pittsburgh Pa.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 5—(CNS)—The House of Representatives of Indiana, at its first session, held last Saturday, passed the "anti-lynching" measure.

The "anti-lynching" measure of Representative Chester K. Watson, of Fort Wayne, was amended in committee by Representative H. H. Evans, of Newcastle, Republican, to provide that the sheriff in a county in which a lynching occurs shall be suspended, to allow a petition for reinstatement within two weeks, to require that the suspension be lifted provided it can be proved that the sheriff was blameless. During the vacancy of the sheriff the coroner would take charge of the sheriff's office.

The original bill vacated the office and provided that survivors of the lynching victim may recover damages from the county, but Representative Evans declared the damage section was unconstitutional.

Representative Fred S. Galloway, of Indianapolis, lost an effort to amend the bill to provide for the original damage clause.

The present law provided for impeachment of the sheriff.

HOOSIER ANTI-LYNCH LAW READ TO HOUSE

Whip 2-21-31

Bill Must Weather Two More Readings to Become Law, Would Imprison Mob Members and Compensate Victims' Relatives.

Chicago [illegible]

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 18.—The first reading of Indiana's new anti-lynch bill with teeth was passed Wednesday in the house of representatives. This bill, which has created state-wide interest because of the apparent lynch spirit among many throughout the state, must weather two more readings before it can become a law.

Friends of the bill are anxiously awaiting its passage so that such acts of violence as committed not long ago in Marion will be stamped out. At that time it will be recalled, a suspect was locked in a vault in the court house for safe keeping only to be burned alive when the entire court house was set fire by an angry mob.

A Real Bill

The bill provides that if any prisoner is taken and lynched by a mob, it shall be prima facie evidence of failure of the Sheriff to do his duty. The bill also stipulates that in any such case the governor issue an order suspending the Sheriff from office. Upon the responsibility of the coroner of the county will devolve the performance of his duties until the latter shall have been reinstated or a successor is elected or appointed.

Under the law lineal heirs or adopted children of any person, who shall suffer death by lynching by a mob may recover from the county where the crime was committed a sum not more than $10,000 and not les than $5,000

Any person participating in a mob shall be guil'y of a felony and be imprisoned for a period not exceeding ten years and not less than three years. The law provides that the serving of a sentence for lynching shall be mandatory.

Under the provisions of the measure, of a suspended Sheriff desires to be reinstaed, he may petition the governor of the State showing that he did all that was in his power to protect the life of the prason lynched.

The bill stipulates that the petition must be submitted to the governor within two weeks from the date of the lynching.

NATIONAL ASSN. LAUDS PASSAGE OF LYNCH BILL

Recorder

Local Branch Chief In Recent Statement Says Negroes Rose To Occasion.

3-21-31

Speaking recently of the Indiana anti-lynching law which is now numbered among the laws of the commonwealth after many arguments for and against the measure G. N. T. Gray, president of the Indianapolis branch of the National Association for the Advance of Colored People said:

"The passage of the anti-lynching bill was the climax of the most outstanding co-opeartion among Negroes.

"The peculiar political situation brought about by the division of the two branches of the general assembly made it necessary for Negro republicans and democrats to decide whether or not they would place welfare of all Negroes above party preference.

"Be it said to their credit that they rose to the occasion and the results justify the course they pursued.

"From the time of the introduction of the bill in the democratic legislature until its passage by the counts, charging the Jones gilr by the governor, Negroes were active in behalf of passing a bill that would make human life safer in Indiana and in its final passage there is glory enough for every Negro who put his shoulders to the wheel. And even if the forces of law is not "air tight" it is a victory for the forces of law and order and an object lesson in team work among Negroes." '

Chattanooga. Tenn. News
Tuesday. March 3. 1931

CHAMBER GROUP LAUDS MOVE TO CUT STATE COSTS

Committee in Session Tuesday Approves Proposed Antilynching Measure.

An antilynching bill which has been prepared through the efforts of the Tennessee Interracial society, and which will be presented the legislature when that body reconvenes, was approved by the legislative and state affairs committee of the chamber of commerce at a meeting Tuesday

This bill provides that officers from whose custody a prisoner was taken and lynched would be liable to ouster proceedings in event of any negligence on the part of the officers. The bill, it is said, would have a strengthening moral effect.

The committee went on record as approving the bill and adopted a motion calling upon the members of the board of directors of the chamber of commerce to indorse the efforts of the recess finance, ways and means committee, under the leadership of Senator Hu C. Anderson of Jackson, to reduce public expenditures.

George F. Milton, who introduced the motion, said that the recess committee was engaged in the preparation of its own revenue bill. The Horton administration, he said, had presented a revenue bill, calling for expenditures of $28,000,000 in the biennium, and that the committee proposed a reduction of these appropriations to the amount of some $3,500,000.

Approves Effort.

"In the present state of public finance, such efforts of Senator Anderson and members of his committee to reduce public expenditures merit an expression of appreciation from the directors of the chamber of commerce and the affirmation that he and his committee are on the right track," Mr. Milton said.

Mr. Milton was authorized to present such a resolution to the directors of the chamber at the weekly meeting Wednesday. In event of its approval, a representative of the chamber of commerce will convey to the members of the committee at its hearing here Thursday morning this expression.

The committee expressed opposition to senate bill No. 189, which provides a tax on gross sales. Another sales tax measure now pending was considered, but no action was taken, as the members felt that action was without the province of the committee.

The proposed measure, known as senate bill No. 374, which provides for a special privilege tax of 2 per cent on gross premium receipts of all insurance companies operating in this state, was disapproved.

King Asks Aid.

Warren King, district engineer of the United States geological survey, appeared before the committee and asked that it consider the action of the recess committee in reducing the appropriation for carrying on geological research work in this state from $64,000 to $5,000.

Mr. King, representing the water research division, said that work of obtaining data with reference to stream flows would be eliminated by the adoption of this reduction. He said that the state has heretofore appropriated $15,000 for this work, which has been matched by appropriations from the government and army engineers.

The matter was taken under advisement by the committee.

Those present at the meeting were Chairman Si A. Past, G. F. Milton, Bernard Loveman, D. B. Harris, C. S. Steward, Cory Smith, D. H. Wood, Mr. King and C. J. Kellem, manager.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
TIMES

APR 1 1 1931

ANTI-LYNCH BILL GOES TO SENATE

By Times Staff Correspondent.

JEFFERSON CITY, April 10.—The anti-lynching bill which was reconsidered and passed by the house late yesterday will now go to the senate for consideration. The bill was passed by a vote of 81 to 28 after Reep. B. H. Rucker of Phelps County, had moved to reconsider the vote by which the measure was defeated Wednesday. There was no debate. The vote was promptly taken with the result that a number of representatives switched in favor of the bill and it passed.

The bill provides life imprisonment for any person who participates in a lynching. It defines a mob of three or more persons who atempts to forcibly take a prisoner from an officer.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
STAR

APR 1 1 1931

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Provisions of the anti-lynching bill which was passed in the Missouri house Thursday are so drastic as to raise a suspicion that the framers are merely out to catch the negro votes. Any law that automatically removes a sheriff from office regardless of whether he defends his prisoner or not, if the mob gets him, would, of course, not be enforced. To provide the death penalty indiscriminately against all participants in a lynching would mean that the penalty would be invoked against nobody. You can't even muster enough local sentiment in a Missouri community now to punish ring leaders.

The first step in prevention of lynching is for the higher-ups in Missouri authority to make use of the power they now have against lynchers and those who permit lynching. Governor Caulfield has full power to proceed against those responsible for the recent outrage at Maryville, and those who failed to interfere to prevent it. There is no use expecting any governor to remove a sheriff under a new law when he fails to remove an adjutant general who fails to use the national guard he has mustered on the spot. No use hoping for any action from the attorney general under a new law when the attorney general, three months after the affair, hasn't even submitted a report. What is needed most is not another law, but more courage and backbone on the part of officials.

Lynchings-1931
&
Prevented

3772

Alabama

Troops To Protect Nine Jailed Negroes

~~Constitution~~

3-26-31

MONTGOMERY, Ala., March 25. (AP)—Detachments of national guards numbering between 60 and 70 men tonight were ordered to Scottsboro to guard the Jackson county jail where nine negroes are held charged with attacking two white girls.

Atlanta, Ga.

Orders for the troops to go from Huntsville and Albertsville were issued by Adjutant General Hartley A. Moon after a request had been made to Governor B. M. Miller by Sheriff M. L. Wann, of Jackson county, who said a crowd of 300 had gathered about the jail.

Negroes Taken To Etowah Jail

~~Advertiser~~

3-28-31

Judge Orders Removal Of Prisoners To Gadsden Under Military Escort

Montgomery Ala

GADSDEN, ALA., March 26.—(AP).

—Detachments of Alabama National Guardsmen called out to protect nine negroes charged with attacking two white girls on a freight train yesterday, were demobilized tonight, one group at Albertville and the other at Guntersville, as the caravan escorting the negroes to the Etowah County Jail here passed through those places. The negroes were placed in the jail here safely.

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., March 26—(AP)—Nine negroes charged with attacking two white girls on a freight train near here yesterday, were taken from the Jackson County jail under military escort this afternoon for removal to Gadsden, for safe-keeping.

The removal of the negroes was ordered by Judge J. A. Hawkins, of Jackson Circuit Court, after a conference with Maj. Joe Stearnes, in command of a detachment of 80 guardsmen ordered here last night, when a mob threatened to storm the jail.

Judge Hawkins previously had issued a call for a special session of the Grand Jury to convene Monday to investigate the charges against the negroes, all of whom have been identified by their victims, two girls from Huntsville, Ala., aged 17 and 21 years. The negroes will be given a preliminary hearing on Tuesday.

Feeling was intense here last night as mountaineers from throughout this section came trooping into town, some in automobiles and a few on mules. At times the crowd was estimated to number 300 and a few times there were shouts of "lynch them."

Inside the jail, Sheriff M. L. Wann, nine deputies sheriff and as many citizen volunteers, armed with shotguns, [illegible] watch and warned the jostling men [illegible] that they would shoot at the [illegible] attempt to rush the jail.

Late in the night, a cold wind whipped across the mountains and the crowd, tired and uncomfortable, drifted away and all was quiet when the guardsmen from Guntersville and Albertville, arrived shortly after midnight to relieve the sheriff and his forces.

With the guardsmen patrolling the jail today, all was quiet and no signs of disorder were apparent. Judge Hawkins announced that troops would be on guard Tuesday when the negroes are returned from Gadsden for a preliminary hearing. Indications were that the negroes would be given a speedy trial.

Military authorities this afternoon reported that one of three negroes who escaped the posse at Paint Rock yesterday had been captured in Georgia, but did not disclose the town in which he was taken.

Seven white youths, companions of the girls who told authorities they were bumming their way to their homes in Huntsville, after a fruitless search for work in Chattanooga, still were held as material witnesses.

Five of the youths were thrown from the train by the negroes who boarded the car at Stevenson, Ala., and two others were knocked unconscious in the fight that followed the order for them to leave the car. It was the youths thrown from the train that notified authorities who intercepted the freight at Paint Rock and arrested nine negroes. Three escaped.

MOB VIOLENCE AGAIN AVERTED

Advertiser

3-28-31

Montgomery Ala

Sheriff Wann of Jackson County, is a cool, sensible and determined officer of the law, the sort of man whose neighbors must have learned to respect before they had occasion to test his mettle. Otherwise those 300 Jackson county citizens might have opened the jail at Scottsboro and seized the nine or twelve Negroes who were charged with criminal assault upon two white girls. But with nine deputies and one volunteer standing by his side the sheriff sent word to the impassioned men without that he would fight before surrendering the prisoners. They stood around a while—300 of them, say the dispatches—when the weather turned cold unexpectedly and to be comfortable they dispersed and went to their homes.

The circumstances were peculiarly trying. Some of the Negroes have confessed that 12 of them attacked two white girls, two of the Negroes having escaped capture. Ordinarily it would be next to impossible to restrain the mob spirit in such circumstances. But two factors entered into the success of Sheriff Wann in protecting his prisoners. The first is that the angry citizens without must have known that the Sheriff was in earnest. The second is the growth of anti-lynching sentiment in Alabama. Today mobs are more reasonable and tractable than they used to be because it has been the policy of public officials, especially Governors, and the policy of newspapers, for many years to condemn mob action. Alabama Governors generally have been vigorous in their efforts to combat the mob spirit.

Governor Miller acted promptly and in the best Alabama tradition in sending National Guardsmen to Scottsboro. This was a wise precautionary measure.

The courts are acting promptly in arranging for a grand jury investigation of the crime.

In other words, in face of extreme provocation, Alabamians have again shown that they are willing to let the law have its way.

Negroes Removed To Birmingham Jail

~~Birmingham~~

4-12-31

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 11.—(AP)—Eight negroes, under death sentences following their conviction at Scottsboro, Ala., on charges of attacking two white girls, were brought to the Jefferson County Jail early today from Gadsden for safekeeping.

The transfer was made as a precautionary measure after the eight negroes had rioted in their cells at Gadsden Thursday night in protest against the death sentences.

A ninth negro, whose trial resulted in a mistrial, also was transferred, the prisoners being brought here in a private bus with Sheriff T. F. Griffin, of Etowah, of Etowah County, in charge. Several officers accompanied the Sheriff.

Extra guards had been placed in the Etowah Jail following the riot but last night, Judge J. A. Hawkins, who presided at the trials, ordered the prisoners removed to Birmingham to avoid possible attempts at jail break. He stated that the Jefferson County Jail was larger and better equipped to take care of such a large number of prisoners.

The negroes will be held here pending their removal to Kilby Prison, at Montgomery.

Troops Guard Trial of Boys in Alabama

~~[illegible]~~

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., April 10. — For a week this little town of 2,000 inhabitants has been an armed camp while the "Alabama" brand of justice was being meted out to a group of youths who are accused of attacking two white women.

Nine boys are charged with the crime and two have already been sentenced to die in the electric chair.

The crime for which the nine youths are facing death happened several weeks ago. The boys, according to "facts" presented at the trial, were hoboing their way North in search of work when the freight car in which they were riding was entered by seven white boys and two white girls. A fight is said to have ensued between the two parties which resulted in the white youths being ejected from the train.

Later the two girls showed up in Scottsboro with the story that they had been attacked by the nine boys who won the fight. Police at once busied themselves in searching for the group, and, aided by the white youths, arrested the nine, seven of whom are under 17 years of age. They were charged with rape and the trial started.

4-11-31

So much space was devoted to the case in newspapers that all this section of Alabama was aroused. Men, women and children from miles around poured into Scottsboro and talk of lynchings was heard on all sides. Saturday night Gov. Bibb Graves, who boasts that he has had no lynchings in his administration, ordered state troops to the scene.

The trial of the first two boys, Clarence Morris, 19, and Charlie Weems, 20, was begun Monday. Tuesday it ended, and both boys were sentenced to die in the electric chair. The only witnesses against them were the girls who made the original charge. The only evidence presented in their defense was their testimony, which was that they fought with the boys in the car, but did not attack the girls. The jury was out a little over an hour before it returned its verdict.

Judge Hawkins, who presided over the trial, announced that he had received a telegram from Huntsville in which it was stated that the boys were being "framed" and that they should be given a change of venue. He declared that he had instructed secret service operatives to trace the message and try to locate the persons who sent it.

Immediately upon the conviction and sentencing of Weems and Morris the court proceeded with the trial of the third member of the party, Heywood Patterson, 16. It is freely predicted that he also will be sent to the chair.

CONDEMNED NEGROES MOVED FOR SAFETY

~~Constitution~~

4-12-31

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 11.—(AP)—Eight negroes under death sentence following their conviction at Scottsboro, Ala., on charges of attacking two white girls, were brought to the Jefferson county jail here early today from Gadsden for safe keeping.

Atlanta, Ga.

The transfer was made as a precautionary measure after the eight negroes rioted in their cells at Gadsden Thursday night in protest against the death sentences.

A ninth negro, whose case resulted in a mistrial, also was transferred. The prisoners were brought here in a bus by Sheriff T. F. Griffin, of Etowah county, and several deputies.

Extra guards had been placed in the Etowah jail following the riot but last night, Judge Hawkins who presided at the trials, ordered the prisoners removed to Birmingham to avoid possible attempts at jail break.

The negroes will be held here pending their removal to Kilby prison, at Montgomery.

NEW YORK SUN

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MAR 26 1931

LYNCH MOB HALTED BY COLD AND GUARD

Sought Nine Negroes Held in Attacks on Girls.

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., March 26 (A. P.).—Cold breezes from the mountains, a hundred National Guardsmen and the Sheriff, his nine deputies and several citizens today preserved quiet around the jail here where nine Negroes are held for an alleged attack on two white girls who were "bumming" their way home on a freight car. . .

A mob that varied from 100 to 300—including local citizens and mountaineers who came to town astride mules and in automobiles—menaced the jail last night and the guards-

3772

men were called. The crowd lingered for some time, but as the cold of a mountain night increased all but a score dispersed to more comfortable places.

Early today officers feared a new mob would form as soon as the sun abated the night chill, but believed the guard sufficient to repulse any assault.

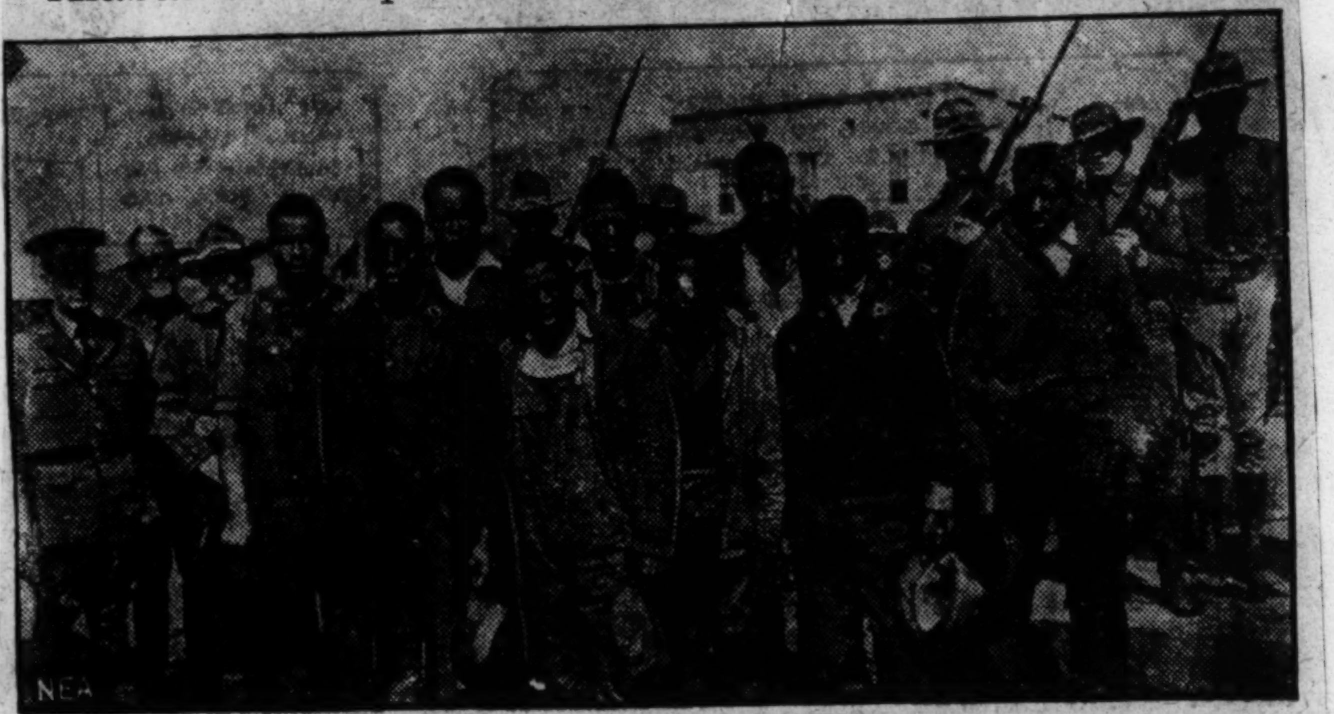
Sheriff M. L. Wann said late last night that the Negroes confessed and Judge J. A. Hawkins announced early call of a Grand Jury to investigate the case. Physicians who examined the girls said they were not badly hurt.

The girls, one 17 and one 21 years old, garbed in overalls, were riding in the freight car with seven white youths en route from Chattanooga to Huntsville, Ala. Officers said twelve Negroes boarded the car near Stevenson, Ala., and ordered the men off. A free-for-all fight ensued, and five of the white boys were thrown from the train and the two others knocked unconscious.

The youths thrown off notified authorities and a posse yesterday afternoon intercepted the train at Paint Rock and took off nine Negroes, the two girls and the two injured youths. What became of the other three Negroes was not learned.

Bristol, Tenn. News-Bulletin
Wednesday, April 1, 1931

Alabama Troops Avert Threatened Lynching of 9



Threats of a wholesale lynching of nine young negroes charged with criminally attacking two white girls were calmed when the Alabama national guard was called out to guard the jail at Scottsboro, Ala. The girls, accompanied by a half-brother of one of them, were hoboing their way back from Chattanooga where they had been in search of work when the young negro hoboes attacked them in a box car. The prisoners, who face the death penalty under Alabama law, are shown here under guard.

SPECIAL GRAND JURY TO PROBE ASSAULT

Advertiser

Mobile Solicitor Requests Session; Negro Removed To Kilby Prison

5-2-31

MOBILE, ALA., May 1.—(AP)—Bart B. Chamberlain, county stlicitor, today said he would ask Mobile Circuit Court judges today to call an immediate session of a special grand jury to investigate the case of Charles P. Williams, negro, who was taken to Kilby Prison at Montgomery early today for safekeeping, following his capture for an attack Thursday afternoon on a six-year-old white girl here.

Montgomery Ala.

Williams was taken to Kilby aboard a train and under heavy guard, following rumors of violence which brought about the calling out of three Alabama National Guard companies, consisting of about 75 men. The militiamen were summoned last night to maintain guard over the jail. One of the units remained on duty throughout the night.

Condition of the child victim, confined in an infirmary was reported critical today. She had been "resting well" last night, but attaches of the institution said she had taken a change for the worse early today.

Reports that Williams had recently been confined in the negro insane asylum at Mount Vernon were heard today. Circuit Court records show that a Charley Williams was committed to the asylum on May 9, 1930, and released on trial in December. The child was attacked while returning home from school with several students. Screams of the girl attracted passersby and the negro was captured by William Taylor and several other men and women who held him until police reached the scene.

Militia Protects Negro At Mobile

Advertiser

MOBILE, ALA., April 30.—(AP)—Three companies of militia were ordered out tonight by Major James J. Alvarez commanding the 31st Division State troops to surround the Mobile County Jail to protect Charles P. Williams, a negro, held there for criminal assault on a six-year-old Mobile school girl. The child was assaulted this afternoon.

5-1-31

The troops were asked for by Sheriff William H. Holcombe after a conference between that official, Chief of Police Warren Burch and county authorities as a matter of precaution. There was no excitement before the troops were called out and none is apparent late tonight, but the officials deemed it wise to order out the guard. The negro, Williams, will in all probability be removed to the State Prison at Montgomery.

Montgomery Ala

Williams is either crazy or playing crazy, according to police officials. It has been established that he was at one time confined in the State Negro Insane Asylum at Mount Vernon, Ala.

Lynchings-1931
O
Prevented

Alabama

3419

Kilby Taboo As Asylum For Mob-Threatened

Advertiser 10-27-31

Knight's Ruling Points Out Commitment For Safe-Keeping Lacks Authority

By JOSEPH R. M'COY

There is no general authority for the commission of a prisoner to the State penitentiary for safekeeping pending trial, it is held in an opinion rendered at the request of Director W. F. Feagin of the State Board of Administration, by the office of Atty. Gen. Knight.

Transfer of prisoners from a county jail, pending trial, to a State penitentiary can be legally affected, it is ruled, only upon the designation of the State Prison Inspector, who can make such designation when a prisoner or prisoners are confined in a jail that does not meet the Inspector's requirements, where the number of prisoners exceeds 100.

Montgomery, Ala.

The views are reiterated in another opinion addressed to Sheriff R. L. Shamblin, of Tuscaloosa County. In his letter to the Attorney General asking a ruling, the Sheriff said he had, on the order of "the judge," removed a prisoner from his County to Kilby for safe-keeping. He wanted to know who was liable for the removal bill and who will be liable for bringing the prisoner back.

Opinion of the Attorney General advises the Sheriff that "there is no authority of law for the judge of any court to order a prisoner removed from the county jail to the State penitentiary for safe-keeping. The commitment must be to the 'nearest sufficient jail.'" It is pointed out that a "penitentiary" is not a "jail," and that the words are not used interchangeably. There having been no authority for the removal, there is no fee allowable to the Sheriff, it is ruled.

While the matter of commitment of prisoners to a State penitentiary for safe-keeping, after conviction and pending appeal, is not touched upon in the opinion, it was ascertained from a competent source that such commitments may be legally carried out.

In the case of a prisoner who has not been tried, however, the situation is different. A recent instance of this sort of a safe-keeping commitment, is that of Willie Peterson, who was transferred to Kilby Prison by the Sheriff of Jefferson County, after the arrest of Peterson, a negro, on the charge of murdering two young Birmingham society girls, and the desperate wounding of a third. Peterson remained at Kilby until he was taken back to Birmingham for preliminary trial, pending which he was shot and dangerously wounded by a relative of one of the slain girls, the shooting taking place in the county jail.

There have been similar instances more or less numerous in the past, however, of commitments of prisoners to Kilby Prison for safe-keeping, pending trial. Several years ago, more than a dozen negroes were so committed to the prison temporarily following racial clashes at Emelle, Ala.

In fact it has come to be more or less an established custom, in instances where public feeling is running high against a defendant under arrest in a county jail, to remove the prisoner to Kilby for safekeeping until preliminary hearing and trial are held. This is done, of course, to forestall any possible attempt at violence that might occur.

Inasmuch as the holdings contained in the opinion of the Attorney General's office do not apply to prisoners who have been convicted and sentenced, and who are held in the penitentiary for safekeeping pending the outcome of appeal, this opinion will not affect the status of the eight negroes now confined at Kilby Prison, who were convicted at Scottsboro, Ala., of criminally assaulting two white girls. All of the negroes have appeals pending before the Alabama Supreme Court.

In his letter to the Attorney General to which the opinion referred to is a reply, Director Feagin asked to be advised under what authority persons may be committed to the State prison for safekeeping pending trial: who has authority to commit them and what form of commitment papers should be demanded by the warden; under what authority a warden might release such person, to whom, and what form of release papers should be required; if such person can be legally committed to a State prison from what funds should the expense of food, clothing and medical attention be paid; should such a prisoner wear the regulation prison uniform, be employed during incarceration; and should such persons be permitted to mingle and eat with the regular prison population or be fed and detained separate and apart.

Advertiser
10-27-31
Montgomery
Ala.

Replying to these interrogatories, the opinion states: "In answer to your first question, will state that, except as provided in Section 4861, Code of Alabama, 1923, there is no authority of law to commit a person to the State penitentiary pending trial. Section 4861 provides that the State Prison Inspector may designate the State penitentiary as the most suitable place to which to remove prisoners then confined in a jail that does not meet the lawful requirements of the Inspector where the number exceeds 100.

"From the tenor of your inquiries, it does not appear that you are presently concerned with the operation of Section 4861. A careful reading of articles One and Four, Chapter 166, Code of Alabama, 1923, shows that there is a clear distinction between a 'jail' and a 'penitentiary' or 'state prison.'

"Since there is no authority generally for the commission of a prisoner to the State penitentiary for safekeeping pending trial, answers to the remainder of your questions are not necessary."

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Arkansas.

3420

OFFICERS TAKE MAN FROM MOB

Courier

1-31-31

ENGLAND, Ark., Jan. 29—(ANP)—W. M. Williams was perhaps saved from being lynched at the hands of a group of angry white men here on Wednesday by the arrival of Chief of Police C. W. Wayne and his deputies.

Pittsburgh, Pa

Williams and a white grocer, H. L. Dillon, had a fight over a purchase. Dillon threw a can of tomatoes at Williams and the latter retaliated with a sock on Dillon's jaw, felling him. A group of white men watching the fight saw that Williams was getting the better of his white adversary and rushed to his assistance.

When the officers arrived the whites were beating Williams and would no doubt have injured him fatally had not the officers arrived and rescued him. He was rushed to jail but was released later when he made a cash bond. His trial will be held Feb. 2.

Slain Farmer, Respected In Community, Was a Mulatto, Officers Report

Commercial Appeal

BATESVILLE, Ark., April 9.—(AP)—Though he lived for eight years in a community which boasted that it had no negroes, Coroner W. O. Pence said today an investigation had established the fact that O. J. Wright, slain farmer of the Charlotte settlement near here, was a mulatto. 4-10-31

Ollie Greenhaw, who was one of the mourners at Wright's funeral, helped dig the grave and served on the coroner's jury, then confessed, according to officers, that he killed Wright, was indicted yesterday for first degree murder. He is held in jail.

Memphis

Coroner Pence said reports reached him shortly after Wright's death that he was suspected of being a negro and after an extended investigation both here and at Wright's former home in Michigan, he said it was a fact that Wright had negro blood.

Wright passed as a white man and was a highly respected citizen at Charlotte. So aroused was the community over his slaying, Greenhaw was taken to Little Rock for safekeeping after his arrest.

NEGRO USES AX TO KILL PLANTER

Appeal

7-13-31

Prisoner Spirited Away From From McGehee, Ark., As Crowd Gathers At Jail.

Memphis,

LYNCHING IS THWARTED

Tenn.

Mob Blocks Bridge But Sheriff Goes Another Way—W. D. Halley Slain When He Attempts to Arrest Negro.

Special to The Commercial Appeal.

M'GEHEE, Ark., Sept. 12.—W. D. Halley, 55, prominent merchant and planter of Halley, was killed and the life of Constable W. M. Bradford of McGehee was threatened at noon today by Will Flynn, negro tenant on the Courtney plantation at Halley, when they attempted to arrest the negro for his refusal to work on the highway.

Mr. Halley was killed when Flynn attacked him with an ax, splitting his skull. He died in the field where he had gone to assist Constable Bradford in making the arrest.

Feeling Runs High.

Flynn was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Chester Bowles and Constable Bradford and brought to the city jail here shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Feeling ran high here as a large crowd, including numerous Halley citizens, milled about the jail. Shotguns carried by Halley residents were in evidence and officers feared that an attempt would be made to lynch the negro.

After announcing he would take Flynn to the county jail at Arkansas City, Deputy Sheriff Bowles loaded the negro in his automobile and left in the direction of the county seat. He doubled back before leaving McGehee, however, and headed for Little Rock.

A large portion of the crowd, some of them armed, went to Arkansas City. A bridge on the Arkansas City-McGehee Highway was blocked by friends of Mr. Halley, who expected to take the negro away from the officer.

Picked Up Ax.

Constable Bradford made his first attempt to arrest Flynn at 11 o'clock this morning when he went with Ollie Mason of Halley to the negro's house. Flynn refused to be arrested and ran to a woodpile where he picked up an ax after the officer had fired twice in an effort to frighten him. Bradford then sent Mason for Mr. Halley, who held a deputy sheriff's commission, to assist him in making the arrest.

While Mason was gone, Bradford said, Flynn picked up a second ax. When Mr. Halley arrived he and Bradford advanced on the negro with leveled guns. Within 15 or 20 feet of the negro, both officers opened fire. They emptied their guns at the negro, wounding him three times.

Seeing Halley was without ammunition, Flynn ran at the planter, knocked him down and struck him in the head as he fell. He then turned on Bradford.

Negro Wounded.

As both went to the ground the ax fell to one side and Mason fired at Flynn, the shot taking effect in the negro's face. Flynn staggered to his feet and ran toward his house. He collapsed as he reached the yard gate.

Mr. Halley had been a resident of Desha County since his birth. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Louis Vick of Halley, and a brother, Wm Halley.

NEGRO ADMITS SHOOTING

Commercial Appeal

Fired at Picnic Party Because He Was Hungry, He Confesses.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Aug. 10.—(AP)—Sheriff Garland Brewster said today that Richard Paul, negro, now in the state penitentiary at Little Rock for safekeeping, admitted he had fired shots into a picnic party which wounded two persons and also had shot and wounded a woman as she walked home from a store here Saturday.

Memphis, Tenn.

The negro denied, however, he entered a farm house south of the city and fled with a shotgun, Sheriff Brewster said. 8-11-31

The sheriff also revealed that a crowd of 15 or 20 armed men was waiting on the road between Sheridan and Little Rock when he left Camden for Little Rock with the negro. He learned of the presence of the crowd, however, and took another route, he said.

Sheriff Brewster quoted the negro as saying he fired into the picnic party, wounding Mack Hollis, former mayor, and his wife, because he was hungry and wanted food.

The negro gave no reason for shooting Mrs. Mary Lee McGehee as she passed him in the road in the outskirts of the city Saturday afternoon, Sheriff Brewster said.

Negro Wanted For Death Plot Caught

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Aug. 9.—(AP)—Sought in connection with the shooting of a man and three women yesterday and the terrorizing of a family, Richard Paul, 29, negro, was arrested at Camden today and rushed to the State Penitentiary at Little Rock.

8-10-31

The negro who lived at Pine Bluff, was charged with the attempted murder of Mack C. Hollis, former mayor, his wife and Mrs. J. C. Custer last night, and the shooting of Mrs. Mary Lee McGehee yesterday morning.

Camden police arrested the negro on information furnished from her. Sheriff Garland Brewster, of Pine Bluff, took him from Camden to Little Rock.

Hollis, his wife and Mrs. Custer, were shot by a negro who emerged from a thicket as they prepared to eat a picnic lunch at the edge of town. One of the napkins from the lunch was found on Paul when he was searched at Camden, officers said.

Mrs. McGehee was shot as she fled from a negro who was loitering on the roadside. She said his appearance alarmed her and as she ran, he fired.

NEGRO WHO SHOT FOUR CAPTURED AT CAMDEN

Commercial

Richard Paul, 29, Rushed to State Prison.

Appeal

Memphis, Tenn

IDENTIFIED BY SHERIFF

Found Asleep in Cotton Belt Depot, He Feigns Insanity at First—Napkin From Victims' Picnic Found on Him.

8-10-31

By The Associated Press.

PINE BLUFF, Aug. 9.—Sought in connection with the shooting of a man and three women yesterday and the terrorizing of a family, Richard Paul, 29, negro, was arrested at Camden today and rushed to the state penitentiary at Little Rock.

The negro, who lived at Pine Bluff, was charged with the attempted murder of Mac C. Hollis, former mayor; his wife, and Mrs. J. C. Custer, last night, and the shooting of Mrs. Mary Lee McGehee yesterday morning.

Camden police arrested the negro on information furnished from here. Sheriff Garland Brewster of Pine Bluff took him from Camden to Little Rock.

Emerged From Thicket.

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One of the napkins from the lunch was found on Paul when he was searched at Camden, officers said.

Mrs. McGehee was shot as she fled from a negro who was loitering on the roadside. She said his appearance alarmed her and as she ran he fired.

Officers said they believed the same negro shot all four and was also the one discovered bending over the bed of Mrs. Mary Strahan, living six miles south of Pine Bluff, when she awoke early yesterday morning. The negro fled with Mrs. Strahan's shotgun after striking her grandmother with it.

A shotgun was used in both of the shootings.

CAMDEN, Ark., Aug. 9.—The negro wanted in Pine Bluff for a series of shootings and attacks upon half a dozen persons Saturday was made here today by Sheriff Brewster of Pine Bluff. Richard Paul, 29, was the negro. A napkin bearing the initials of former Mayor Mack Hollis of Pine Bluff, who was one of the several wounded by the negro in his rampage through Pine Bluff early last night, was found on Paul.

Negro Found Asleep.

The negro was arrested by Chief of Police Pat Greening and officers at the Cotton Belt passenger station here at 10 a.m. today. He was asleep in the waiting room.

Information from Pine Bluff said that the negro was believed to have escaped the cordon of police, posse and armed citizens on a southbound Cotton Belt extra freight. While officers searched one end of the train the negro got off at another.

Agent C. M. Fitzhugh saw the negro in the waiting room and notified officers. He refused to talk and feigned insanity until the arrival of Sheriff Brewster and Deputy Sheriff Thomasson. Another negro from Pine Bluff identified Paul. He was rushed to the state penitentiary at Little Rock for safekeeping.

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3 Picnickers Shot By Arkansas Negro

8-9-31

PINEBLUFF, Ark., Aug. 8.—(AP)—Shots fired by a negro into a picnic party [illegible] northwest outskirts of the city tonight wounded Mack Hollis, former mayor, his wife, and Mrs. J. C. Custer.

At a hospital where they were rushed by a son and daughter of the Hollis, it was said all three were in a serious condition from loss of blood.

Lynchings - 1931

Prevented

Colorado.

3421

Colorado Srings, Colo
COLO. GAZETTE

DEC 11 1931

SHERIFF AT HOLYOKE ASKS AID W[illegible] MOB FORMS AFTER YOUNG SLAYER[illegible]NFESSION

HOLYOKE, Colo., Dec. 10 (AP)—Sheriff Frank Berger tonight sent out an appeal to officers of surrounding counties for assistance as crowds began to gather in the streets of Holyoke.

The sheriff said he anticipated no trouble, but that some irresponsible persons had begun to talk of lynching John Markham, who confessed today on the witness stand that he shot and killed Stanley M. Moore near here on the night of September 6.

Berger said that cooler heads in the crowd were turning the crowds away.

Sheriff Chet Yates of Yuma county was the first to arrive in response to Berger's call. He took up a position in the county jail with several other men Berger had called upon.

Altho cognizant of the added precautions being taken for his safety, Markham read quietly in his cell thruout the evening.

Admission from the witness stand that he killed Moore today marked the closing testimony of Markham's trial.

"Moore's threats to turn me over to the law finally got on my nerves, and I blew up, whipped out my gun and shot him in the back of the head," Markham told the jury.

The jury will receive Markham's e tomorrow morning.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Florida

STANDARD UNION
B'klyn. N.Y.
MAR 25 1931

SHERIFF SAVES NEGRO FROM FLORIDA MOB

OCALA, Fla., March 25 (U P).—John Johnson, a Negro, arrested on a charge of attacking a white girl, escaped violence at the hands of a mob here to-day when the Sheriff spirited him to a neighboring county.

The mob formed at Zuber, five miles north of here, where the alleged attack occurred, and came here shouting threats to lynch the Negro. During the excitement, Johnson was slipped out of the jail and taken away.

The girl, whose throat was slashed, was said by authorities to have identified Johnson as her assailant.

NEW YORK SUN
MAR 25 1931

Mob Threatens Florida Negro.

OCALA, Fla., March 25 (U. P.).—John Johnson, a Negro, arrested on a charge of mistreating a white girl, escaped violence at the hands of a mob here today when the sheriff rushed him to a neighboring county. The mob formed at Zuber, five miles north of here, and came here shouting threats to lynch the Negro.

Negro Is Held In Double Killing; Violence Is Feared

Montgomery, Al.

CASSIA, FLA., March 22.—(AP)—Postmaster J. L. Lawrence, 42, was killed and fatally shot and his wife, 32, was attacked and then killed by a marauder at their home here late last night.

Jim Henderson, a negro, was arrested by a posse using track dogs and spirited to an unannounced jail for fear of mob violence. Officers said Henderson confessed to the slayings when arrested in his home. Bloodstains were found on his clothing, they said.

A negro found Lawrence in a ditch near the ruins of his burned home. He said a negro clubbed him in his yard and rendered him unconscious. After the attack and slaying of Mrs. Lawrence the marauder set fire to the house. Returning later he found Lawrence alive and shot him in the head with a shotgun, Lawrence said.

The postmaster died shortly afterward.

Cassia residents began gathering in small groups soon after the negro was captured and officers hurried him to another jail.

POSTMASTER, WIFE ARE SLAIN BY NEGRO

Constitution
3-23-31

CASSIA, Fla., March 22.—(AP)—Postmaster J. L. Lawrence was shot and clubbed to death and his wife killed by a negro gunman at their home here late last night or early today.

Atlanta Ga

A negro, Jim Henderson, who was tracked by bloodhounds, was captured by a posse and confessed, according to officials. The negro has been spirited to some central Florida jail for fear of mob violence.

Lawrence was found in a dying condition in a ditch near the ruins of his home by a neighbor. The postmaster was conscious and said the slayer had set fire to the house before fleeing. The body of his wife, partly burned, was found in the ruins.

Lawrence said he was struck over the head and rendered unconscious while in his front yard. The slaying of Mrs. Lawrence followed and the slayer set fire to the house. He left and returned to find Lawrence still alive and then shot the postmaster in the head with a shotgun, the postmaster said.

Lawrence died shortly after giving his account to officers.

A posse was formed speedily and bloodhounds were called from Orlando. The dogs took up the trail, which led to Henderson's home.

Officials said the negro confessed when bloodstains were found on his clothing.

Lawrence was about 40 years old. His wife was about 32.

Cassia is a small town in Lake county.

NEGRO ATACKER IS HELD.

Assaulted and Slashed Throat of 14-Year-Old Girl.

3-26-31

OCALA, Fla., March 26.—(AP)—A 14-year-old girl en route home from school was assaulted and slashed on the throat near here yesterday by a negro she identified today as John Brown, alias John Johnson.

He was arrested and taken to prison in Jacksonville. Feeling ran high in this community today and authorities spirited him away for fear of mob violence.

The girl was wounded seriously about the neck, but doctors said she would probably recover.

The negro denied attacking her, but officers said she was positive in identifying him.

ALLEGED WIFE SLAYER SAVED FROM LYNCHING

PALATKA, Fla., June 3.—(AP)—Authorities today said Pete Bradshaw, alleged wife slayer, was being held in an unannounced jail following an unsuccessful attempt last night to lynch him.

Constitution

Bradshaw is charged with having inflicted fatal injuries to his wife while intoxicated at their home in Crescent City Junction last Saturday night.

6-4-31

He was arrested at the home of a neighbor last night shortly before a mob of 100 men surrounded the small jail at Crescent City Junction and the home of Marshal E. J. Green. Deputies hid him in an orange grove while the mob circled the city in automobiles waiting for officers to bring him to the jail.

Atlanta Ga.

Seizing a favorable opportunity, the deputies loaded Bradshaw in a car and whisked him away. They said he had been taken out of the county.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
Wednesday, June 8, 1931

WIFE SLAYER HIDDEN AFTER MOB TRIED TO LYNCH HIM TUESDAY

Palatka, Fla., June 3 (AP)—Authorities today said Pete Bradshaw, alleged wife slayer, was being held in an unannounced jail following an attempt last night to lynch him.

Bradshaw is charged with having inflicted fatal injuries to his wife while intoxicated at their home in Crescent City Junction last Saturday night.

He was arrested at the home of a neighbor last night shortly before a mob of 100 men surrounded the jail at Crescent City Junction and the home of Marshal E. J. Green, Deputies hid him in an orange grove while the mob circled the city in automobiles waiting for officers to bring him to the jail.

The deputies placed Bradshaw in a car and hurried him out of the county.

Macon Ga
Telegraph
6-4-31

LYNCHING ATTEMPT FAILS

Officers Succeed in Keeping Florida Mob Away From Suspect

PALATKA, Fla., June 3. (AP)—Authorities today said Pete Bradshaw, alleged wife slayer, was being held in an unannounced jail following an attempt last night to lynch him.

Bradshaw is charged with having inflicted fatal injuries to his wife while intoxicated at their home in Crescent City Junction last Saturday night.

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The deputies placed Bradshaw in a car and hurried him out of the county.

Lynchings - 1931
Prevented

Georgia.

3423

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
Monday, February 2, 1931

PRECAUTIONS KEPT NEGRO FROM POSSIBLE VIOLENCE IN ROME

Rome, Ga., Feb., 2 (AP)—Precautionary measures ordered by Judge James Maddox were credited today with having prevented violence to Willie White, negro, who was removed to Atlanta for safe keeping after a jury found him guilty of murder but with a recommendation for mercy.

White was convicted of slaying R. L. Huggins, aged storekeeper. Before passing sentence Judge Maddox ordered everyone in court to remain seated until the negro could be returned to jail. Upon arrival there White was marched through the front entrance out a side door to an automobile which sped to Atlanta.

Some of the spectators disregarded the judges' order and left court. Word of the sentence spread and approximately 200 persons gathered in front of the jail.

A second negro, Henry West, is in the local jail under sentence to die March 13 for the slaying. He confessed and implicated White as the actual slayer.

CONVICTED NEGRO BROUGHT TO ATLANTA

Constitution
2-3-31

Precaution Taken by Rome Judge After Jury Recommends Mercy

Atlanta, Ga.

ROME, Ga., Feb. 2.—(AP)—Precautionary measures ordered by Judge James Maddox were credited Monday with having prevented violence to Willie White, negro, who was removed to Atlanta for safekeeping after a jury found him guilty of murder but with a recommendation for mercy.

White was convicted of slaying R. L. Huggins, aged storekeeper. Before passing sentence Judge Maddox ordered everyone in court to remain seated until the negro could be returned to jail. Upon arriving there White was marched through the front entrance and out a side door to an automobile which sped to Atlanta.

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POLICE COOLNESS AVOIDS LYNCHING

Constitution
4-5-31

State Moves To Get Full Justice for Slayer of Sheriff Camp.

Atlanta, Ga.

With the body of Sheriff Thomas W. Camp buried in his beloved Campbell county, the forces of Georgia justice that Sheriff Camp was sworn to uphold Saturday afternoon began getting in motion to exact from his slayer the penalty demanded by the code of this state for murder.

The negro who has been identified as the man who killed Sheriff Camp Friday morning with the officer's own gun was saved from mob violence for the more orderly processes of law by fellow peace-officers of the dead sheriff. Cool heads and quick wits rescued Fred Griffin, 18, of Loganville, the negro charged with the murder, from possible lynching, according to officers who brought Griffin to Atlanta for safekeeping.

Griffin has confessed to killing Sheriff Camp, it was said Saturday by G. C. Bentley, chief of Campbell county police. In addition, Chief Bentley said, Griffin confessed that he broke into a store operated by Lee White at Opelika, Ala., and that the automobile, rifle and cigarets in his possession when arrested by Sheriff Camp were stolen.

The automobile has been turned over to its owner, B. M. Leonard of Opelika, from whom Griffin stole the car, Chief Bentley said. The chief said that Griffin told officers that when Sheriff Camp arrested him he knew he was caught with stolen goods in his possession and he escaped from custody, running to a pine thicket where the sheriff caught up with him. Griffin claimed that the sheriff laid down his gun and put his hand in his pocket and he thought Camp was going to draw a knife and cut him, so he grabbed the gun and shot the sheriff three times. John Heineman, an eye-witness, said, however, that Camp was shot in a scuffle, Bentley said.

Local officers who aided in the all-day search for the slayer praised the coolness of Campbell county citizens and their desire to see justice done in the approved manner of civilization, and those hot-heads who desired a rope and a convenient limb for the alleged slayer were quickly circumvented by the more reasoning members of the large posses which finally caught up with the negro.

Seek to Inflame Crowd.

Fulton county officers said that when Griffin was caught, after being peppered with birdshot until his back looked as though he had plunged into a hornet's nest, several ambitious individuals with vigilante justice in their minds set to work to inflame the crowd to the point of a "necktie" party, but that reason prevailed, and the officers were enabled to get away safely with their prisoner.

Constitution

One man, armed with an automatic pistol, attempted to shoot Griffin as he lay on the ground, but was prevented from doing so. Another followed the negro with a sharp knife and an expressed desire for a "slice of him," the officers said. The peace-officers, placing Griffin in a Fulton county machine, informed the crowd that they were going to Fairburn with the prisoner, and the crowd rapidly disappeared in that direction, the Fulton county police car with Griffin under guard being the last machine to strike the main highway between Fairburn and Atlanta. Instead of turning to Fairburn, however, County Policeman Cal Cates wheeled the heavy car into the road toward Atlanta and came to Grady hospital with the siren wide open, at a mile-a-minute clip, followed by other cars crowded with officers to prevent pursuit by the crowd.

4-5-31

Negro Improving Rapidly.

After receiving treatment at Grady hospital, Griffin was lodged in Fulton Tower. Jailers Saturday said he is recovering rapidly from the gunshot wounds. The Campbell county grand jury holds its next regular session in August, but it is probable that a special session will be called soon to consider Griffin's case, it was said.

Atlanta Ga

The ordinary of Campbell county is expected to appoint an acting sheriff early this week to serve until a special election is held. In the meantime and until the acting sheriff is appointed, the Campbell county ordinary acts in the place of the dead officer.

Funeral services for Sheriff Camp were held at 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon in the Fairburn Methodist church, of which he was a member, with the Rev. C. H. Hall, pastor, and the Rev. Charles Bass officiating. Interment was in Fairburn cemetery with Bishop & Shaw, funeral directors, in charge.

Courageous Elberton Pastor Tells of Quieting Angry Mob

THE REV. HENRY BROOKSHIRE

Constitution
[illegible]

The story of how a calm-voiced Baptist minister persuaded the ringleaders of an angry mob to leave the jail at Elberton, where Monday night a throng gathered in an attempt to seize a negro suspected of criminal assault upon a young white woman, was related here Tuesday morning.

Atlanta, Ga.

The Rev. Henry Brookshire, pastor of an Elberton Baptist church, was in Atlanta Tuesday with a delegation of Rotarians from that town who attended the local Rotary Club luncheon. It was Mr. Brookshire who influenced several leaders of the mob to leave the interior of the Elbert county jail, to which they had gained entrance through a window.

Mr. Brookshire said he was on his way home Monday afternoon after officiating at a funeral. He noticed the large excited gathering around the courthouse and learned that the mob had gathered in an attempt to wrest a negro prisoner from the sheriff's authorities. The minister said he talked to several leading citizens and offered to try to placate the throng if the citizens would accompany him.

Minister Enters Jail.

Accompanied by Editor Christian, of the Elberton Star; Dr. Albert S. Hawes, mayor, and one or two others, he said, he went to the jail. The front door was locked, he said, so they gained entrance at the rear. Meantime several of the more venturesome among the mob had climbed through a window and were walking about inside the jail. Making his way to this group, he said, he quieted their demands long enough to address them.

"Men," he said, "will you listen to a few words from a Baptist preacher?" he asked them. Apparently this direct appeal had a quieting effect upon those inside the jail.

"I pleaded with them to let the law take its course," Mr. Brookshire told his interviewer Tuesday. "I told them that I felt as strongly about the crime that had been committed as they did, and that I was as interested in seeing the criminal brought to speedy justice. I promised that everything that could be done to get an extra early session of court and a speedy trial would be done."

Keeps Mob Inactive.

In a few minutes, leaders of the mob left the jail at the preacher's behest, after which Mr. Brookshire went outside and circulated among the mob, which had become quieter, but which still hovered about the courthouse.

"I was endeavoring to keep them inactive until the militia which had been called could arrive and take the situation in hand," Mr. Brookshire said. "My thoughts were on the negro, who might have been the wrong man; upon the disgrace that violence would bring to our town and state, and to our religion."

Mr. Brookshire had high praise for the prompt and courageous action of the sheriff in defying the mob, as well as in his race with negro suspects to Athens, outdistancing pursuing members of the mob.

That the situation was well in hand was the consensus of Elberton businessmen at the local Rotary meeting Tuesday. Major H. B. Hunter, Elberton banker, said that the businessmen of Elberton and of Elbert county were grateful for the successful aversion of violence. He added that the mob was composed of excited youths, many of them from neighboring counties.

Mr. Brookshire was, from about 1924 to 1928, pastor of the Woodward Avenue Baptist church here. A graduate of Mercer University and of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., Mr. Brookshire came here from his first pastorate in one of the smaller Georgia cities. From Atlanta, he went to Barnesville, and then transferred to Elberton, where he has been ever since. While in Atlanta, Mr. Brookshire was a member of the executive committee of the Atlanta Association of Baptist Churches.

Georgia Negroes Safe At Atlanta

Advertiser

5-20-31

ATLANTA, GA., May 19.—(AP)—Si negroes saved from mobs that storme the Elberton jail and pursued officer taking some of the negroes to safe were in prison here tonight.

Meanwhile, two white men, E. A. Edwards, 28, and Glenn Crowder, 25, were in an Elberton hospital suffering from wounds inflicted last night as National Guardsmen opened fire to drive a mob

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Montgomery Ala

away from the jail.

The negroes were arrested in connection with an attack on a young white woman at Elberton Sunday night. Asst. Police Chief C. W. Johnson, of Elberton, said John Dower, 25, had confessed and implicated Hizak McCorley, 17. Dower and McCorley were sought by the mob that invaded a safety zone established by Elberton guard units and penetrated far enough into the jail to hammer at the negroes' cell doors.

The other four who were pursued by men in automobiles as officers started toward Athens with them earlier last night were booked here as Theodus Cade, 22, Roy Huff, 25, Ernest Hill, 26, and Frank Junger, 25. They were arrested as suspects, and were brought here from Athens early today.

Tifton Gazette
Tuesday 19, 1931

NEGROES SPIRITED TO ATLANTA JAIL

Disguised in Army Uniforms and Carried from Elberton, After Being Hidden in Trees.

Atlanta, Ga., May 19.—(AP)—Two negroes, charged with attacking a white girl, were spirited away from a mob at Elberton last night, disguised in army uniforms, and were lodged in the Fulton tower here today by national guardsmen.

The negroes were hidden in trees surrounding the Elberton jail nearly two hours before they were put into an automobile.

Later two hundred guardsmen, who had stood off the mob of two to five thousand with tear gas, rifle fire and fire hose, boarded trucks and departed for their homes in Elberton, Monroe and Atlanta.

The guardsmen once forced the mob back after they had stormed the jail and beat the locks off the cell of one of the negroes.

Four other negroes also are held as suspects here.

Refusing to retire from the jail at the command of the guardsmen, the crowd drew closer and the troops threw tear gas bombs. These proving unavailing, the guardsmen opened fire. One man, Emory Edwards, of Elberton, was shot in the leg. He was removed to a hospital for treatment.

Tear gas bombs were resorted to after the Elbert fire department had unsuccessfully attempted to calm the mob by turning the fire hose on the crowd. Members of the mob took the fire hose from the firemen and turned it on the troops, drenching them. It was then that the guardsmen utilized gas bombs and rifle fire to force the crowd back from the jail. The tear gas bombs were picked up by the mob and hurled back at the troops. These bombs were described by officers as small affairs and not very effective.

The Elberton units of the Georgia national guard were ordered on duty after a mob had attempted to get the negro in jail and following appeals to Governor Hardman by the mayor, sheriff, police chief and judge of the Elberton city court.

Last Night's Story.

Elberton, Ga., May 18.—(AP)—National guardsmen opened fire here tonight and also used tear gas bombs to drive back a mob which attempted to attack the jail where a negro is under arrest, suspected of attacking a white woman. One man was believed wounded.

Two companies of the Georgia national guard, were placed on duty around the jail late in the afternoon, after a crowd had demonstrated against the negro prisoner. Sheriff S. B. Seymour said that a crowd of about 400 persons gathered about the jail after the negro had been arrested. Before the troops were called, he said, a part of the crowd got into the jail and down the corridor to the negro's cell, but were restrained by appeals. Again they later attempted to reach the negro, the sheriff said, but again were halted by appeals.

Both of the companies are Elberton units and mobilized immediately after receiving the call to duty.

STANDARD UNION

B'klyn, N.Y.

MAY 19 1931

TWO ARE SHOT AS LYNCH MOB STALKS NEGRO

Troops Guard Jail After 2,000 Storm Walls—Howitzers Are Called

EIBERTON, Ga., May 19 (U P).—One man was near death to-day and another lay seriously wounded after National Guardsmen had fired a volley into a crowd of nearly 2,000 persons who attempted to storm the jail here, bound on lynching an unidentified Negro charged with criminal assault.

Glen Cryder was reported in a precarious condition at the Elberton Hospital. Physicians held little hope for his recovery. Emory Edwards, 26, was being treated for rifle wounds at the same institution. The National Guardsmen were forced to shoot when the mob backed them against the jail wall.

Although there were no disorders after the troopers had dispersed the mob, scores of persons continued to loiter about the jail in small desultory groups.

HOWITZERS ARRIVE

The arrival of a Howitzer Company from Monroe, Ga., to augment two companies of local troops, served only to excite the infuriated mob. Explosion of a stick of dynamite in a vacant lot near the jail caused officials to double the guard about the jail, fearing an attempt to blast it.

The mob began to form when it learned that Sheriff S. B. Seymour had taken the Negro into custody after an all night search after the alleged attack Sunday night.

By 9 P. M. the Courthouse square was jammed with persons calling for the life of the Negro. Sheriff Seymour summoned the fire department when he and his deputies were unable to manage them.

MOB SEIZES HOSE

Firemen quickly attached hoses and began playing streams on the crowd. Members of the mob, however, soon tore the hoses from hydrants and routed the firemen. The crowd then seized the hoses and turned them on the National Guardsmen, who were forced back to the jail.

Then they retreated a short distance, and each side prepared to be waiting for some action from the other. The mob was the first to move and demanded that the military retreat so that it could reach the prisoner. The Guardsmen stood their ground however, and when they had been forced to the wall, opened fire.

Georgia Troops Fire Into Mob

5-19-31

Crowd Of 1,500 Persons Marches On Jail Where Negro Attacker Is Held

ELBERTON, GA., May 18.—(AP)—Rifle fire and tear gas bombs were used by National Guardsmen here tonight in beating off a mob estimated at 1,500 persons which attacked the jail where a negro was under arrest charged with attacking a white woman. One civilian was wounded in the leg.

Refusing to retire from the jail at the command of the guardsmen, the crowd drew closer and the troops threw tear gas bombs. These proving unavailing, the guardsmen opened fire. One man, Emory Edwards, of Elberton, was shot in the leg.

Tear gas bombs were resorted to after the Elberton Fire Department had unsuccessfully attempted to halt the mob by turning the fire hose on the crowd. Members of the mob took the hose from the firemen and turned it on the troops, drenching them. It was then that the guardsmen utilized gas bombs and rifle fire to force the crowd back from the jail.

The tear gas bombs were picked up by the mob and hurled back at the troops.

The two local units of the Georgia National Guard, one a machine gun outfit and the other a headquartres company, were ordered on duty after a mob had attempted to get the negro in jail and following appeals to Gov. L. G. Hardman in Atlanta from the Mayor, Sheriff, Police Chief and Judge of the Elberton City Court.

They went on duty late this afternoon and roped off a deadline around the jail.

Col. G. P. O'Keeffe, who was placed in command of the troops, reported to Adjt. Gen. Homer C. Parker in Atlanta that, on his arrival, he found that the mob had entered the jail and had beaten the locks to the negro's cell, but had been unable to break the bars.

After the first troops went on duty, the crowd quieted down, but later became more menacing and increased in number.

On receipt of word from Col. O'Keeffe of the situation here, Adjt. Gen. Parker sent Company F, a rifle company, from Atlanta, and a howitzer company from Monroe, Ga., to reinforce the troops already on duty here. The Atlanta company, commanded by Capt. R. C. Endicott, took along 25 extra riflemen and a supply of powerful gas bombs.

Before the troops fired, the mob had cut the ropes and attempted to rush the jail. Col. O'Keeffe had orders to shoot any men who attempted to enter the jail, Gen. Parker said in Atlanta.

Lynchings - 1931
Prevented

Georgia

3424

Times
AMERICUS
GA.
ISSUE OF
SEP 30 1931

LYNCHING IS AVERTED, SAID

Story Of Attack Neither Confirmed Nor Denied

An inquiry conducted with parties in Richland today failed to confirm or set at rest persistent rumors of an attempted lynching there yesterday.

The story first told here early this morning by two traveling salesmen was that a lynching had been narrowly averted last night. According to the rumor, a negro recently returned to Richland from a northern state had been taken "for a ride" after he had written an insulting note to a white girl in or near Richland. It was told in this version that the negro was hanged and shot.

This rumor was denied by a party at Richland in a telephone conversation. Though it appeared there was little talk there about the affair, a rumor had been heard that the insult had been made verbally and that the negro was taken out by a group of men and beaten. Time of the whipping was intimated as yesterday in this report.

The only reports sifting through here were extremely vague. No names were learned. No report of the affair had been made to Stewart county authorities, it was learned today.

POLICEMAN SAVED AFTER BIG CROWD SURROUNDS JAIL

Constitution
12-26-31

Wounded by Police Chief J. R. Farr, Gentle Wood, 25-Year-Old Alpharetta Man Is Brought Here With Bullet in Neck.

Atlanta, Ga.

SHOTS EXCHANGED DURING ARGUMENT

Policeman Reported To Have Attempted To Arrest Four Men in Auto. 400 Swarm Around Jail.

Rescue of Chief of Police J. R. Farr, of Alpharetta, from impending mob violence was accomplished Friday night by Fulton and DeKalb county officers following the shooting in Alpharetta of Gentle Wood, 25, who is in a serious condition at Crawford W. Long hospital.

Chief Farr was moved from the Milton county jail under the noses of a mob of more than 400 persons, and was lodged in Fulton tower for safekeeping under a commitment charging assault with intent to murder.

Ed Gunter, who was riding with Wood, had his arm around the latter's neck and was shot through the fingers, the bullet penetrating Wood's neck. Sheriff Pack Smith, of Milton county, said that he was told by witnesses that Chief Farr fired the shot after jumping on the running board of Wood's car. The highway had been blocked, it was said.

Chief Farr said that Wood and Gunter drove through Alpharetta in an intoxicated condition, and that Edgar Farr, his son, who had been deputized, headed the car off. Chief Farr claimed that Gunter shot at him, and that he returned the fire. The police chief said that he had warned Wood, in a soda fountain, against drinking.

On Christmas Eve, the chief was notified that a white bandit had held up a church benefit party, and, in consequence, he stopped the car on the road, Chief Farr said. After stopping the car, he arrested four persons, not for robbery, but for being drunk, he added.

So far as could be learned Friday night, no warrant has been sworn out against Farr. The commitment to Fulton tower was made by Sheriff Jake Hall, of DeKalb county, for Sheriff Smith.

Reports differed as to who fired the first shot following the altercation which resulted when the car was stopped. The coupe was turned into a ditch and wrecked.

Friends of Wood, incensed over what they thought was an unnecessary shooting, gathered at the Milton county jail in Alpharetta and threatened summary revenge against Chief Farr. Alpharetta authorities called Fulton and DeKalb county and Roswell city officers, and Chief Farr, after a talk with Sheriff Smith and Mayor V. E. Eason, of Alpharetta, was rushed to Fulton Tower.

Burd Barnett, a member of Wood's party, is held in the Alpharetta jail on a charge of disorderly conduct. Chief Farr's sons, Bass and Ed Farr, accompanied him to Fulton Tower but were not detained.

Constitution
12-27-31
Atlanta, Ga.

J. R. Farr, chief of police of Alpharetta and his two sons were being held in Fulton tower Saturday under charges of assault with intent to murder, as the result of a shooting affair in Alpharetta on Christmas Day in which General Wood and Ed Gunter were shot. The warrants on which they were being held were taken out in Milton county by O. W. Wood, brother of General Wood, who was reported by Crawford W. Long hospital attaches Saturday as having a condition of "fair."

The shooting occurred Christmas Day when Chief Farr and his two sons, Bass and Edgar, deputized by him, attempted to halt an automobile in which Wood and Gunter were riding. Gunter was wounded in the hand and Wood in the neck. Chief Farr stated that he arrested Burl Barnett, another occupant of the car, on a charge of drunkenness and that Wood was shot during an exchange of shots that followed. He asserted that the men in the car fired first. Saturday it was denied that there was a pistol in the car and stated that one of the Farr boys fired the shot that struck Wood.

Barnett was held under a charge of drunk and disorderly at Alpharetta.

Immediately following the shooting a crowd of citizens attempted to have Chief Farr turned over to them from the Milton jail, where he had taken refuge, under the protection of Sheriff Pack Smith. ~~Farr was then~~ brought to the tower here for safekeeping, and when his sons ~~came to visit~~ him there Saturday morning they were placed under arrest also on the warrants which were sworn out Saturday morning earlier.

No attempt had been made by either Chief Farr or his sons to obtain their freedom on bond Saturday night.

NASHVILLE, TENN.
EVE. TENNESSEAN
DEC 29 1931

Lynching Prevented.

Alpharette, Ga., nearly lost its police chief the other day at the hands of a mob—nearly but not quite, because of the determination of fellow officers that the mob should be cheated of its prey.

Feeling ran high when Chief J. R. Farr, in attempting to arrest four men on a charge of drunkenness, was forced to use his pistol. One man was killed by a bullet.

The police chief then returned to the jail which was quickly surrounded by indignant citizens. Officers who saw trouble brewing sent for help from Atlanta and nearby towns and with the aid of reinforcements, removed the slayer to Atlanta.

Here was a white man of good standing given all the protection to which he was entitled. The chances are that he will be acquitted of the charge against him.

But what if it had been an ignorant negro? Is it probable that Georgia officers would have been so determined to prevent a lynching?

Instead, it likely would have been reported that jail officials were "overpowered" and the negro removed by "unidentified" men.

Alpharetta's latest excitement is merely anothr indication that most illegal executions can be prevented if the desire is strong enough.

Lynchings-1931
6
Prevented

Georgia.
6

3425

LaGrange, Ga. News
Tuesday, May 19, 1931

Quiet Is Restored To Elberton After Mob Is Repulsed

ELBERTON, Ga., May 19.—(UP)—Quiet was restored to Elberton today after a spectacular clash between national guardsmen and a mob which last night attempted to storm the jail here to lynch two negroes charged with criminal assault on a white woman.

Two members of the mob [illegible] shot when enraged citizen[illegible]garding orders to keep a[illegible]m the jail, tore a fire hose from the firemen and played it upon some of the militiamen. Lyn Crowder, one of the wounded, was shot in the hip and may lose his leg. Emory Edwards, also shot, was not critically wounded.

Both negroes and four others arrested early Monday were taken from the jail and conducted safely to Atlanta, where they were confined to Fulton county tower. National guardsmen formed the escort, which thwarted the mob from carrying out its threatened lynching.

More than 150 machine gunners and riflemen from here and Monroe were sent on orders from Adjutant General Homer C. Parker, after every civil authority of Elberton appealed to Governor L. G. Hardman for aid.

Ordered to Shoot

Orders to shoot any member of the mob—which at one time numbered more than 1,000 men—who attempted to break through a roped off deadline around the jail were issued to national guard officers in charge of the protecting force.

Tear Bombs Used

Tear gas bombs, hurled by the troops to disperse the first semblance of the mob, were hurled back at the militiamen. A fire hose played upon the mob was wrested from firemen and turned into a jail window, where it played for fully five minutes. A final rush brought the command to shoot. Edwards fell gravely wounded, and the crowd dispersed.

Made Confession

Assistant Police Chief C. W. Johnson said one of the negroes had confessed his part in the crime but charged the other one with actually committing it. Johnson said John Downer, who made the confession, had been partially identified by the woman as the one who attacked her.

Four other negroes were arrested earlier in the day and carried to Athens by Sheriff S. G. Seymour, who was forced to outdistance a mob in automobiles. They were transferred to Fulton Tower in Atlanta late yesterday.

The young Elbert woman was attacked Sunday night about nine o'clock while riding with Ralph Craft, of Oglethorpe county. The car was stopped and Craft ordered to descend at the point of a pistol. The negroes then pulled the young woman from the automobile.

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
Tuesday, May 26, 1931

TROOPS GUARD COURTROOM IN ELBERTON TODAY

Negro On Trial For Alleged Attack On White Girl There On May 17th.

GIRL TAKES STAND

And Tells of Being Forced To Leave Her Escort By Negro With Pistol.

Elberton, Ga., May 26. (AP)—The girl victim of an alleged attack Sunday night, May 17, took the witness stand in the trial of John Downer today and pointed out the negro as the man who forced her from the automobile of her escort at the point of a pistol.

She previously had identified Downer as her asasilant.

The court room was cleared when the girl was called to the stand. She told of going for a ride with her companion, and said they stopped on a lonely road while her escort smoked a cigarette.

While they stopped, she testified the negro appeared and forced her to leave the automobile at the point of a pistol. She said he fired one shot in the air to convince them the weapon was loaded.

National guardsmen were on duty within and without the court house and there was no disorder.

Two white men were wounded during a mob attack on the jail here May 18, at the time the negro was arrested on the attack charge. He has since been in the Fulton county jail at Atlanta for safe keeping. He was brought back here this morning from Atlanta on a special train, accompanied by about three hundred national guardsmen under command of Col. Gerald P. O'Keefe.

Three other negroes, Isaac McCauley, C. Otis Cade, and Frank Cade, who were arrested at the same time Downer was taken into custody, were also brought from Atlanta. They are not to be tried, officials said, but presumably, will be used as witnesses.

Machine guns guarded each of the four entrances to the jail and infantrymen with rifles paced the deadline which had been drawn around the jail to keep back the crowds when court opened. In addition, armed patrols were on duty in streets near the jail and court house.

Superior Court Judge Berry T. Moseley, called the case for trial this morning and announced that Charles Emory Smith, Howard B. Payne and Z. B. Rogers, all of the Elberton bar had been appointed to defend the negro. Payne is solicitor of the Elberton city court and Rogers is city attorney.

Solicitor General A. S. Skelton, in charge of the prosecution is assisted by Paul Brown and Clark Edwards, of Elberton.

The prosecution announced itself ready when the case was called. The defense attorneys, after a conference with the negro, requested that several more witnesses be summoned, among them, Downer's wife. The court immediately ordered that this be done.

The court house was filled and there was another large crowd across the street, beyond the deadline drawn by the soldiers.

Elberton, Ga., May 26 (AP)—John Downer, negro, in whose defense two white men were wounded in a mob outbreak here May 18, faced trial in Elbert county circuit court today under an indictment charging him with attacking a white woman.

County officials announced they had not requested troops to officiate at the hearing, but Downer was taken from Fulton Tower in Atlanta early this morning for return to Elberton by a detachment of national guardsmen under orders of Governor L. G. Hardman and State Adjutant General Homer C. Parker.

Downer and five other negroes arrested in the case were taken to Atlanta after the mob activity for safe keeping. Only Downer has been indicted, and officials said no action was planned against the five others. However, three of them, Isaac McCauley, C. Otis Cade and Frank Cade, were removed with Downer from the Tower by guardsmen for return here. The other two, Ernest Hill and Roy Huff, remained in the Tower.

Solicitor General A. S. Skelton said the people of Elbert county "are thoroughly reconciled to the situation had want the negro to have a fair and impartial trial, and there is no indication of any trouble whatever." A similar opinion was voiced by Rev. Henry Brookshire, Baptist preacher, whose oratory quieted the mob a week ago yesterday until troops arrived.

Four of the negroes were first taken to Athens, Ga., after their arrest with mobsmen in pursuit, and later were taken to Atlanta. After Downer and another of the negroes were placed in jail here a mob made several attempts to seize them, but was repulsed with tear gas and one round of firing by four companies of guardsmen. Two white men shot were not wounded seriously. When the mob was beaten off the negroes were taken to Atlanta disguised as soldiers.

The purported attack took place on a country road near here while the girl and a male companion were motoring. The man is alleged to have been intimidated by a pistol.

NEW YORK TIMES

MAY 24 1931

LYNCHING PROBLEM SOLVED IN GEORGIA

At Least, the State So Regards the Balking of Crime at Elberton This Week.

MINISTER'S TALK HELD MOB

His Plea for Observance of Law Delayed Crime Until Militia Got Into Action.

By JULIAN HARRIS.

Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATLANTA, May 21.—It is good to be able to chronicle the fact that Georgia solved the lynching problem this week. Heretofore, this space has too often been used to describe the murder of prisoners, usually Negroes, by a mob of lawless Georgians. It would seem to be news that the custom of offering the keys of the jail to the leaders of a mob is about to be outmoded. In short, lynching, as a by-product of hot, Nordic blood, is about to go the way of hat-doffing in elevators or surrendering one's seat in a street car to a woman.

It ought to be said, too, that Georgia's heretofore "Pinaforeish" militia not only took along loaded guns when called out to protect a Negro prisoner in Elberton, but used them effectively when the mob attempted the usual plan of ignor-

MINISTER HOLDS MOB.

The Rev. Henry Brookshire Was Largely Instrumental in Preventing Lynching at Elberton, Ga.

ing the representatives of law and order. Two men were wounded, the mob lost its appetite for gang-murder, several gasoline drums, which might have aided in a human sacrifice, were saved and the prisoners were moved safely as well as speedily to the jail in Atlanta. In short, the situation was one which caused George Fort Milton, chairman of the Committee on the Study of Lynching in the South, to write an enthusiastic editorial of commendation captioned "Three Cheers for Georgia."

Minister Held Mob.

Vigorous approval has been accorded the excellent work of Sheriff Seymour of Elbert County, the city police of Elberton, leading citizens, and particularly the Rev. Henry Brookshire, of whom more later. The Atlanta Constitution, recent winner of the Pulitzer Gold Medal and for years a determined opponent of lynch law, praised the authorities and the National Guard for their courage. Denouncing lynching as "savagery, barbarism, reversion to the wild fury of the jungle," The Constitution asserted that "every time the State's ministers of law and order repulse and defeat a mob the State rises higher in the scale of civilization and draws more of the respect and praise of civilized men."

In the Elberton incident it was charged that a Negro assaulted a young white woman. Four suspects were arrested, but before the usual avenging mob developed a leader, Sheriff S. G. Seymour and Officer Johnson of Elberton headed for Athens in an automobile, taking the quartet of Negroes. When the mob realized that it was about to lose a Roman holiday its representatives started in hot pursuit of the officers and their prisoners. One bullet fired by the pursuers went through the officers' car but no one was wounded, and the outdistanced ambassadors of assassination returned to Elberton.

Later in the day two other Negroes were captured near Elberton. One confessed to taking part in the abduction of the girl, but charged the other with having actually committed the crime. Members of the mob who had attempted to lynch four innocent Negroes entered the jail to get the two men captured later. It was then that the Rev. Mr. Brookshire, Baptist minister, made an appeal to his fellow Georgians to abandon their cowardly and lawless plan. Fortunately units of the National Guard arrived before the members of the mob came out of the hypnosis produced by the pastor's fine and fearless plea, for when the mob, no longer under the spell of the minister's eloquence, attempted to rush the jail two of its members were shot down and the discovery had been made that lynchings can be averted if the law is upheld.

Prevention of Threatened Lynching Won Constitution Award for Sheriff Howell

First Time in History of County Crime Committed Not Followed by Mob Violence.

Details of the official acts performed by Sheriff Sid Howell, of Early county, for which he was designated by a committee of the Georgia County and Peace Officers' Association as winner of The Constitution's annual award for the most meritorious service in line of duty by a peace officer, were announced Saturday by Chief of Police Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, president of the association.

Constitution

Chief Watkins was the winner of the award for the preceding year, both awards having been announced at the recent meeting of the association in Macon. The exploit for which he was honored was the capture of a trio of escaped convicts from West Virginia who had barricaded themselves in a house on the outskirts of Macon.

The following letter was received by The Constitution Saturday from Chief Watkins:

6-7-31

> Editor Constitution: I wish to thank you for the check which was presented to me on last Friday by your representative, which was the award for meritorious service for the year beginning June, 1929, and ending June, 1930.
>
> Atlanta
>
> I also wish to inform you that the award committee of our association passed on a number of applications for the year beginning June, 1930, and ending June, 1931, and selected Mr. Sid Howell, sheriff of Early county, Blakely, Ga., as the officer to whom this award should be given. The presentation will be made at our next annual meeting, which will be in May, 1932, in Savannah.
>
> Ga.
>
> BEN T. WATKINS,
> President, Georgia County and Peace Officers' Association.

Prevented Probable Lynching.

The statement upon which the committee of the Peace Officers' Association gave the award to Sheriff Howell was signed by three prominent citizens of Early county—A. H. Gray, lawyer; S. P. Holland, physician, and R. O. Waters, banker—and gave him full credit for having prevented an almost certain lynching.

The statement was in part as follows:

"On Sunday night, December 14, 1930, Sheriff Howell was called upon to arrest a negro by the name of Edgar Jenkins for an attack claimed to have been committed upon two white girls, one 9 years of age, the other 11 years of age.

"Sheriff Howell immediately went to the home of the children, obtained from them, and from their father, all information available, and then started a search for the negro, first obtaining a promise from the father to say nothing of the crime until he obtained a further report and advice from the sheriff. Within three hours Sheriff Howell had the negro under arrest and in jail at Blakely, and soon thereafter took him to a jail in another county.

"As soon as the crime became generally known in the county great excitement prevailed, and talk of lynching the negro was commonly current.

"Sheriff Howell immediately called a meeting at the courthouse of the county commissioners and leading citizens from every section of the county. Included in this call were those persons whom Sheriff Howell recognized would be most likely to agitate a lynching of the negro, and who would act as leaders of a mob.

"This meeting was well attended, and, after some discussion, in which the harmful effects of mob violence were pointed out, every man present pledged his support and active assistance to Sheriff Howell in preventing the lynching of the negro when he was brought back to the county for trial at a special term of court, which Sheriff Howell assured would be called promptly.

"Sheriff Howell immediately communicated the result of this meeting to the circuit judge, who called a special term of Early superior court to convene on December 22, 1930, and a grand jury and petit jury were summoned for that date.

Leading Citizens Deputized.

"The special term of court convened as called. Sheriff Howell swore in a detail of special deputies, armed them, and placed them at strategic points about the courthouse, and in the courthouse, so placed and in sufficient numbers to prevent any concerted rush upon the courthouse. This detail of deputies was composed of the most outstanding citizens of the county, men whose influence alone would have great weight upon any body of their fellow citizens, and men, moreover, who were known to be fearless, and who would not retreat from a course of action once formed.

The negro was promptly indicted, brought into court, where the court appointed three attorneys to represent him. He was put upon trial during the same day, and found guilty upon two separate charges of rape, there being two bills returned against him. There was no room for doubt of his guilt. Indeed, he admitted his guilt to the sheriff after being arrested.

"The jury promptly found the defendant guilty upon both indictments, and he was sentenced to be electrocuted on January 16, 1931, at which time the sentence was carried into effect. Immediately upon the conclusion of the trial Sheriff Howell with his force of deputies carried the negro to a jail in another county, where he was kept until he was taken to the state prison for electrocution.

SHERIFF SID HOWELL.

"From the beginning to the end of this affair Sheriff Howell kept his own counsel, taking no one into his confidence, as to his handling of the matter. He moved quickly whenever it was necessary to have the prisoner in his custody. No one knew how he got the negro back to Blakely on the day he was tried, and when he left with him after the trial, as stated, he was under heavy guard.

"Early county has heretofore had a number of lynchings, and several outbreaks of mob violence on the part of whites directed toward negroes. It was freely predicted by numbers of people, in fact it was the general belief, that this negro would be lynched. That he was not is a source of much gratification to the law-abiding citizens of our county.

Used Cool Judgment.

"Sheriff Howell displayed splendid judgment, we believe, when called upon to arrest this negro, in proceeding alone and not calling in a posse, and in requiring the father of the victims to keep quiet until the culprit was apprehended. In this way the negro was safely in jail in another county before news of the crime became generally known. Knowing the prevalent sentiment against crimes of this nature, which is especially violent in this county, we confidently believe that had knowledge of this crime become general before the negro was arrested and removed, that he would assuredly have been lynched.

"Sheriff Howell's action in calling a public meeting of the substantial citizens of the county, and including with these the turbulent spirits who he knew would take the lead in stirring up public excitement, and who would act as leaders of a mob, should one be formed, was a master-stroke. The latter could not in such a meeting afford to label themselves as lawbreakers when called upon to give their pledge against mob violence, and, having given their word, could not well afford to break it. The assurance of the best element of our citizenry to Sheriff Howell that they would use their best efforts to prevent a lynching, to the extent of using force if it became necessary (some of these actually enlisted in the sheriff's detail of deputies at the trial), effectually dampened the mob spirit, which by then had obtained considerable momentum.

"We believe that strong public opinion in any given situation is one of the most effective weapons against mob violence, and this, by his tact and strategy Sheriff Howell effectually brought into play. So that, on the day of the trial there was absolutely no demonstration of any kind, and no evidence whatever of mob spirit. The situation at the trial, while naturally tense, was quiet and orderly in every respect.

"The fact that Sheriff Howell is known to the county at large as a man of determination, and of quick and positive action when the occasion demands, also had its effect, as he had announced that if the negro were brought to Blakely for trial that there would be no lynching, and it was well known that Sheriff Howell would make good that statement with his life if necessary.

This is the first time in the history of Early county that the perpetrator of the crime of which the negro was convicted has not been lynched. We believe that Sheriff Howell, by his effective handling of this situation, has set a precedent which will go a long way toward preventing future mob violence in this county."

Lynchings-1931
Prevented.

Georgia.

3426

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

MAY 20 1931

Troops Intelligently Used

The situation in Elberton, Ga., which led to the ordering out of units of the National Guard to protect a Negro charged with attacking a white woman, is revealed in the fact that the request to the Governor came from the Mayor, the Chief of Police, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Elberton City Court, from the further fact that a Baptist minister and the Chief of Police had urged the mob to let the law take its course, and from the final fact that before the troops arrived the mob had actually entered the jail and beaten the locks of the prisoner's cell in the effort to reach him. To these should be added the presence, after the troops were on the ground, of a Colonel of the Georgia National Guard, an officer of such rank as to suggest it was not hot-headedness or inexperience which led to the use of bullets to beat back the persistent efforts of the mob to storm the jail.

In point of fact, every reasonable means seems to have been used before bullets were resorted to. Appeals to the mob failed, the use of fire hose failed, and tear bombs proved ineffectual. Even when bullets were used, the casualty list was confined to one man shot in the hip, presumably by fire from troops, and another man wounded in the leg from an unidentified source. Plainly here was neither too sudden use of firearms or too great a use of them.

In brief, the Elberton picture, as it is described in the news dispatches, reveals care and restraint quite as much as it does firmness and determination. The net result is to demonstrate how troops can be skillfully and successfully employed in an exceedingly difficult and dangerous situation, to the end that the law shall be protected and a mad mob prevented from perpetrating an act of savagery. The picture is all the more welcome after the lamentable failure of the National Guard in the Darien, Ga., lynching of last September, and the even worse failure in Maryville, Mo., in January. In the latter instance a company of National Guardsmen were in the town and were awaiting orders from the sheriff. The orders did not come and the prisoner was tied to the ridge-pole of a school house and burned to death while the troops who might have prevented such a bestial murder remained quietly in the building where they were assembled. Such feeling as that displayed in Elberton makes it easily possible that the mob spirit will rise again, but at the moment the control of the National Guard seems effective.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

MAY 20 1931

DEFENSE OF ELBERTON JAIL

After some years' absence from the lynch-murder record—a circumstance attributed to the fact that a court there sentenced several lynchers to long terms in the penitentiary—Georgia headed the 1930 roll, with six mob outrages. All were perpetrated during a "wave" lasting but a few weeks.

Shamed by that relapse, Georgia officials set out to take more vigorous measures against further spread of the evil. Public sentiment approved that attitude, as the women's famous Atlanta declaration indicated:

"We are profoundly convinced that lynching is not a defense of womanhood or of anything else, but rather a menace to private and public safety and a deadly blow at our most sacred institutions."

No doubt Governor Hardman's quick action in lately dispatching State troops to quell the mob that stormed Elberton jail, reflected that sentiment. First the fire department attempted to repel the attack with heavy streams of water. That proved ineffective, and Guardsmen hurled tear bombs into the crowd—which missiles were tossed back at the troops.

As a last resort, Col. O'Keeffe gave the order to fire, and two men in the crowd were wounded. Meanwhile, officers rescued the prisoner—a negro charged with attacking a white woman—and at this writing it is reported that they spirited him away to Atlanta for safekeeping.

Though regrettable, the Guard officer's command to fire upon the mob was altogether justifiable. It was better that some be wounded or even killed thus than that the State suffer another outrage upon justice. Lynch-murder strikes a blow at the law which protects all the people.

Several years ago Kentucky Guardsmen—dispatched by Governor Morrow—fired upon a mob storming a jail. Casualties resulted, but that State since has been comparatively free of lynchings. Not long afterward Governor Cooper of South Carolina used State troops in similar circumstances, with fairly lasting moral effect. Three years ago, Sheriff Hiers of Tampa (Florida) had to fire upon a crowd that attacked the county jail. For that act—which forestalled a lynching—the Commission on Interracial Co-operation in Atlanta bestowed a gold medal upon him.

Official courage and resourcefulness in the face of mob attack are credited with having prevented 40 lynchings last year. Were such drastic measures the rule, the evil virtually would disappear.

PEORIA, ILL.
JOURNAL

MAY 20 1931

A LYNCHING AVERTED

Georgia earned for herself the admiration of the nation when, by using her national guard, she prevented the lynching of two Negroes charged with attacking a white girl near Elberton. Four companies of the guard were called out, and two white men were wounded by the soldiers.

The south was unable successfully to deal with its lynching problem so long as it depended upon local authorities. Perhaps the use of troops in Georgia will establish a precedent which will terminate the tragedies which result when mob passions become inflamed and racial hatred flares.

Mob violence is always ugly. When the mob fails to have its way, somebody is generally hurt. When the mob rules, somebody is killed. The victim may be innocent or guilty, but the danger incidental to lynching is always greater than the social benefits of an example set by a mob.

Georgia undoubtedly will be able to take care of the two accused Negroes. It furthermore has demonstrated that it is able to meet mob violence in kind.

Let other states heed Georgia's example.

Constitution

ELBERTON CITY JUDGE ANSWERS TRIAL CRITIC

5-30-31

Atlanta, Ga.

SAVANNAH, Ga., May 29.—(AP)—Judge Raymond Stapleton, of the Elberton (Ga.) city court, here today described as "unfounded as to facts" the statement attributed to Orville A. Park, Macon attorney, which was that the conviction of a negro in Elberton Tuesday for assault was "judicial lynching."

Judge Stapleton, who is here attending the State Bar Association, after reading reports of Mr. Park's speech before the Macon Kiwanis Club, said there was no excitement at the time of the Elberton trial and that feeling was much greater in some of the nearby counties from whence the young woman and her escort came.

"I think the statement attributed to Orville A. Park by the press to the effect that the trial and conviction of the Elberton negro Tuesday was a judicial lynching was extremely unfortunate," Judge Stapleton said. "Mr. Park did not know any of the facts connected with the trial and there was nothing that could possibly justify such serious indictment against officials, attorneys and jurors who tried the case.

"There was no excitement at the time of the trial and no threats or attempts at violence."

INCORRECTLY QUOTED, SAYS ORVILLE PARK

BRUNSWICK, Ga., May 29.—(AP) Orville A. Park told the Georgia Bankers' Association today that he was incorrectly quoted in that part of his speech Wednesday before the Macon Kiwanis Club, which referred to the Elberton (Ga.) trial of last Wednesday.

The report from Macon quoted Mr. Park with having referred to the conviction of an Elberton (Ga.) negro for criminal assault as a "judicial lynching."

The Brunswick News says Mr. Park in his speech to the bankers today said:

"I wish to say that taking one sentence out of a 30-minute talk they can nearly always get something out of it sensational if you have a sensational reporter that is giving out the statement. I am quite sure if my Elberton friends had been present when I made these remarks about the trial recently held in their city that they would not have in the least though that I was reflecting on the good name of Elberton.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
Wednesday, May 20, 1931

INTER-RACIAL SOCIETY GIVES ELBERTON PRAISE

For Way Attempt At Lynching of Negroes Was Handled In That City.

Atlanta, May 20 (AP)—Officials of Elberton, Governor L. G. Hardman, and the national guard were praised today by the commission on interracial cooperation for their prompt and vigorous action in preventing the lynching of six negroes charged with attacking a white girl.

Speedy work of Elberton officials saved four of the negroes by rushing them to Athens, Ga., with mobsmen in pursuit in automobiles, and calling out of the national guardsmen protected the two in the Elberton jail. The guardsmen battled a mob of two or three thousand for almost ten hours, using fire hose, tear gas bombs, and one round of firing. Two white men in the mob were wounded. After the mob was beaten back the troops brought the negroes, disguised as soldiers, to Atlanta.

Speaking on behalf of the commission, Dr. Comer Woodward, of Emory University and state chairman, said that "Georgia and the South owe a debt of gratitude to local and state officers who prevented what threatened to be one of the worst lynching horrors in the history of the state."

Rev. Henry Brookshire, Elberton preacher who stayed the first assault of the mob on the jail by oratory before the troops arrived, was cheered vigorously by the Rotary Club here yesterday when he was introduced as a guest.

Judge B. T. Mosely, of Elberton, last night summoned a grand jury for Monday in the case of John Dower one of the negroes in the case. Dower's trial was set for Tuesday.

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
Tuesday, May 19, 1931

TWO INJURED IN ENCOUNTER WITH MILITIA

Rifle Fire and Tear Gas Bombs Used to Beat Off Crowds After Negro

MACHINE GUNS IN STREET

Guardsmen Ordered to Shoot Any Man Who Attempts to Enter Prison

ELBERTON, Ga., May 18 (AP)—Rifle fire and tear gas bombs were used by national guardsmen here tonight in beating off a mob estimated at 1,500 which attacked the jail where a Negro was under arrest charged with attacking a white woman.

Refusing to retire at the command of guardsmen, the crowd pressed closer. The troops threw gas bombs but these proved unavailing. They then opened fire. One man, Emory Edwards, of Elberton, was wounded in the hip.

Later another civilian, Lyn Crowder, was shot in the leg when the crowd turned the fire hose into the jail. The source of this shot was not determined.

Tear gas bombs were resorted to after the Elberton fire department had unsuccessfully attempted to calm the mob by turning the fire hose on the crowd. Members of the mob took the fire hose from the firemen and turned it on the troops, drenching them. It was then that the guardsmen utilized gas bombs and rifle fire to force the crowd back from the jail.

Bombs Hurled Back

The tear gas bombs were picked up by the mob and hurled back at the troops. These bombs were described by officers as small affairs and not very effective.

The two local units of the Georgia national guard, one a machine gun outfit, and the other a headquarter's company, were ordered on duty after a mob had attempted to get the Negro in jail and following appeals to Gov. L. G. Hardman in Atlanta from the mayor, sheriff, police chief and judge of the Elberton City court. They went on duty late this afternoon and roped off a deadline around the jail.

Col. G. P. O'Keefe, who was placed in command of the troops, reported to Adjt. Gen. Homer C. Parker, in Atlanta, that on his arrival he found that the mob had entered the jail and had beaten the locks to the Negro's cell, but had been unable to break the bars.

Crowd Quiets Down

After the first troops went on duty the crowd quieted down, but later became more menacing and increased in numbers.

On receipt of word from Colonel O'Keefe of the situation here Adjutant General Parker sent Company R, a rifle company, from Atlanta, and a howitzer company from Monroe, Ga., to reinforce the troops already on duty here.

The Alanta company, commanded by Capt. R. C. Endicott, took along 25 extra riflemen and a supply of powerful gas bombs.

The howitzer company from Monroe, commanded by Capt. E. A. Williamson, and the Atlanta company, were dispatched by special buses.

These reinforcements brought the total number of guardsmen under arms to over 150.

Before the troops fired the mob had cut the ropes and attempted to rush the jail. Colonel O'Keefe had orders to shoot any men who attempted to enter the jail. Adjutant General Parker said in Atlanta.

The troops on duty at the jail used tear gas bombs intermittently to keep the crowds back.

Before the troops arrived peace had been requested, Rev. Henry Brookshire, Baptist minister, and Chief of Police W. H. Irvin had urged the crowd to let the law take its course.

The Negro was arrested about noon today near here by Sheriff E. M. Walton, of Wilkes county, assisted by Sheriff W. J. Hammond, of Lincoln county. Sheriff Seymour said he did not know the exact location of the arrest.

The Negro is alleged to have attacked a young white woman, who was reared in Lincoln county, but who now lives in Elberton. The attack is said to have occurred last night.

Condition Serious

Unofficial reports from a hospital where Crowder was taken said his condition was serious and that amputation of his leg appeared necessary. Edwards was not considered badly wounded.

It was later learned that two Negroes were in jail in connection with the attack and Assistant Police Chief C. W. Johnson said one of them had confessed his part in the crime but charged the other one with actually committing it. Johnson said John Downer, who made the confession, had been partially identified by the woman as the one who attacked her.

Four At Athens

Four other Negroes were arrested early in the afternoon and were taken to Athens, Ga., by Sheriff S. G. Seymour and Officer Johnson. Johnson said that during this trip several men in an automobile attempted to overtake the officers' car and at one time got close enough to shoot a bullet through the car. No one was struck and the sheriff outdistanced them into Athens. The car had been struck by one bullet. After the four suspects had been incarcerater a mob gathered around the jail but soon dispersed. It was unofficially reported here the four Negroes were transferred from Athens to Fulton tower, Atlanta, but this could not be confirmed.

Major A. N. Drake was in command of the situation here from about 4:30 this afternoon until Colonel O'Keeffe's arrival about 7:30 tonight. Major Drake had about 40 men under his command.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Tuesday, May 19, 1931

NEGROES CARRIED TO ATLANTA AS MOB THREATENS

Attempt Made to Storm Jail at Elberton; Guardsmen Wound Two White Men

Atlanta, May 19. (AP)—Two negroes, charged with attacking a white girl, were spirited away from a mob at Elberton this morning disguised by army uniforms and were lodged in Fulton tower early today by National Guardsmen.

The negroes were hidden in trees surrounding the Elberton jail for an hour and a half, militiamen said, before they were gotten into an automobile and hurried to Atlanta.

Shortly after, the 200 guardsmen who had stood off a mob variously estimated at from 2,500 to 5,000, mounted their trucks and busses and departed for their homes in Elberton, Monroe and Atlanta.

Only a few loiterers watched their departure.

City and county officers again took possession of the wrecked jail, the scene of a few hours of martial law.

At Fulton tower the two negroes were booked as Hizak McCorley, 17, and John Dower, 25.

They joined four other negroes hurried out of Elberton yesterday by Sheriff S. C. Seymour to Athens, and from there to Atlanta last night.

The four were booked as Theodus Cade, 22 Roy Huff, 25; Ernest Hill, 26; and Frank Junger, 25.

Two white men, E. A. Edwards, 28, and Glenn Crowder, 25, are in the Elbert county hospital suffering from gunshot wounds as the result of attacks upon the jail.

Machine gun fire, tear grenades, smoke bombs and fire hose were used by city and county officers and guardsmen in repulsing repeated attacks, two of which penetrated to the cell doors of the two negroes.

The mob succeeded, however, in wresting the fire hose from the officers and used it in breaking out jail windows and flooding the cells.

The negroes were removed from the jail, militamen said, when the mob threatened to blow up the building with dynamite.

The mob warned that there would be a warning blast and that five minutes later the jail would be blown up. The first blast occurred in the jail yard, but the second one did not materialize.

Assistant Chief of Police C. W. Johnson of Elberton said Bower had made a confession involving McCorley in the crime. The four other negroes were arrested earlier as suspects.

The assistant chief said Dower had been tracked from the scene to his home, and that the shoes corresponding with tracks were found in his home.

The white woman was said to have been attacked Sunday night. Her escort told officers he was forced from his automobile at the point of a pistol by a negro, who then took the girl from the car.

TWO WHITE MEN WOUNDED IN FIGHT

Elberton, Ga., May 19—(AP)—Two white men were in the hospital here today with gunshot wounds received while National Guardsmen defended the jail against a mob seeking to remove two negroes charged with attacking a white woman.

The negroes were taken to Atlanta by guardsmen early today for safekeeping after a night of mob activity that was suppressed only by use of rifle fire and tear gas bombs. Four companies of guardsmen, including a machine gun company, were called to duty around the jail between yesterday afternoon and midnight.

Earlier in the day mobsmen in automobiles attempted to seize four other negroes arrested in the attack case while officers were taking them to Athens, Ga. At Athens a crowd congregated around the jail, but was soon dispersed.

The mob first formed here late in the afternoon when the negroes were placed in jail. At the time it was only known that one was under arrest. The guardsmen were placed on duty following appeals to Goevrnor L. G. Hardman from local officials and two local units roped off a deadline around the jail. The mob soon grew to 1,500 or more and they cut the ropes, surged into the jail and beat the locks on the cells of one of the negroes before they were repulsed.

Outside the Elberton fire department played streams of water on the mob until members seized the hose and turned it on the firemen and the guardsmen. Then the guardsmen hurled tear gas bombs, but the mobsmen boomeranged them back. Rifle fire followed and Emory Edwards and Lyn Crowder, both of Elberton, fell with wounds in their lower extremities. Edwards was wounded by a guardsman's bullet, but the origin of the shot that struck Crowder was not determined. It was reported at the hospital that Crowder's injuries were serious and probably would necessitate amputation of a leg.

The four negroes taken to Athens were escorted by Sheriff S. C. Seymour and Johnson, who said they were followed by several men in automobiles, who once got close enough to shoot a bullet through their car. The pursuing cars were soon outdistanced and apparently gave up the chase.

The mob here began to disperse shortly after midnight and only a few civilians were around the jail when the negroes were removed to trucks at 3 a. m. and the journey to Atlanta started under heavy escort of guardsmen. The last outbreak of violence took place shortly before midnight with the explosion of a small charge of dynamite in the courtyard near the jail as Monroe National Guard company arrived. No damage was done by the explosion.

Col. G. P. O'Keefe was in command of the troops. When he arrived early in the night he reported the situation "very serious" and Adjt. Gen. Homer Parker immediately ordered the two local units to be reinforced with Company F, a rifle unit from Atlanta, and a howitzer company from Monroe. The Atlanta company took along a supply of powerful gas bombs. The reinforcements brought the number of guardsmen to over 150.

After the first attack on the jail was repulsed, Col. O'Keefe was order by Adjt. Gen. Parker from Atlanta to shoot any further offenders.

Many members of the mob were armed with rifles and shotguns and there was frequent firing, although officers said they did not believe any of the shots were directed at the troops. Officers also said many of the mobsmen carried sticks of dynamite.

The victim of the alleged attack is a young woman who was reared in Lincoln county, but now lives here. The attack was purported to have taken place Sunday night.

Lynchings - 1931
Prevented

Georgia

3427

Hero of Attack on Elberton Jail Chairman of Rotary Program Here

Business and professional leaders of Elberton exchanged courtesies with Atlanta businessmen Tuesday when the Rotary Club of Elberton took charge of the weekly Atlanta Rotary meeting at the Capital City Club.

After calling the gathering to order, C. H Candler, president of the local Rotarians, turned the meeting over to Tom Gaines, Elberton educator and president of that club, and the Rev. Henry Brookshire, Elberton minister, heroic figure in the Monday Elberton riot, who served as chairman of the program.

The meeting was one of a series of exchange programs through which Rotary clubs of nearby cities are brought to Atlanta to take charge of the local sessions. Principal addresses of the day were delivered by Howard Payne, Elberton lawyer, who outlined the history and developments of that section, and John Denis, Elberton industrialist, who talked on the art of thinking.

Interest in the visit of the businessmen of Elberton was heightened by the riot excitement of the previous day. However, practically no allusion was made to the Monday occurrences with the exception of the introduction of Mr. Brookshire as "the Rotarian who played an important role in quieting the mob until the militia arrived," which proved the signal for resounding applause on the part of fellow Rotarians.

The Elberton men attending were Tom Gaines, retiring president; Clyde Teasley, Paul Brown, incoming president; Howard B. Payne, John Denis, Walter Whitehead, Major H. B. Hunter and and Henry Brookshire.

N. Y. EVENING POST

MAY 19 1931

GEORGIA LYNCHING FOILED BY TRICK

Troops Spirit 2 Men From Raided Jail in Disguise—In Atlanta Prison

USE TEAR GAS, GRENADES

ATLANTA, Ga., May 19 (AP).—Two Negroes, charged with attacking white girl, were spirited away from a mob at Elberton this morning disguised in army uniforms and lodged on Fulton tower here by National guardsmen. The Negroes were hidden in trees surrounding the Elberton jail for an hour and a half, militiamen said, before they were put in an automobile and hurried to Atlanta.

Shortly after, the 200 guardsmen who had stood off a mob variously estimated at from 2,500 to 5,000, mounted their trucks and bases and departed for their homes at Elberton, Monroe and Atlanta. Only a few loiterers watched their departure.

At Fulton tower the two Negroes were booked as Hizak McCorley, seventeen, and John Dower, twenty-five.

They joined four other Negroes hurried out of Elberton yesterday by Sheriff S. C. Seymour to Athens, and from there to Atlanta last night.

Two white men, E. A. Edwards, twenty-eight, and Glenn Crowder, twenty-five, are in the Elbert County Hospital suffering from gunshot wounds as the result of attacks upon the jail.

Machine gun fire, tear grenades, smoke bombs and fire hose were used by city and county officers and guardsmen in repulsing repeated attacks, two of which penetrated to the cell doors of the two Negroes. The mob succeeded however, in wresting the fire hose from the officers and used it in breaking out jail windows and flooding the cells.

The Negroes were removed from the jail, militiamen said, when the mob threatened to blow up the building with dynamite.

The white woman was said to have been attacked Sunday night. Her escort told officers he was forced from his automobile at the point of a pistol by a Negro, who then took the girl from the car.

Assistant Chief of Police C. W. Johnson of Elberton said Dower had made a confession involving McCorley in the crime. The four other Negroes were arrested earlier as suspects.

ELBERTON, Ga., May 19 (AP).—Two men were in the hospital here today with gunshot wounds suffered while National Guardsmen defended the jail against a mob seeking to remove two Negroes charged with attacking a white woman.

Meanwhile, the Negroes were started to Atlanta by guardsmen early today for safe-keeping after a night of mob activity that was suppressed only by use of rifle fire and tear gas bombs. Four companies of guardsmen, including a machine gun company, were called to duty around the jail between yesterday afternoon and midnight.

Earlier in the day a number of men in automobiles attempted to seize four other Negroes arrested in the case while officers were taking them to Athens, Ga.

The mob formed here late in the afternoon, when the Negroes were placed in jail. The guardmen were placed on duty following appeals to Governor L. G. Hardman from local officials, and two local units roped off a deadline around the jail. The mob soon grew to 1,500 or more and they cut the ropes, surged into the jail and hammered the locks on the cells of one of the Negroes before they were repulsed.

Outside the Elberton Fire Department played streams of water on the mob until members seized the hoze and turned it on the firemen and the guardmen. Then the guardsmen hurled tear gas bombs, but the mob threw them back. The soldiers fired and Emory Edwards and Lyn Crowder, both of Elberton, fell with wounds in their legs.

One round of fire curbed the mob considerably, but tear gas bombs were used intermittently to keep it in hand.

The four Negroes taken to Athens were escorted by Sheriff Seymour and Deputy Johnson, who said they were followed by several men in automobiles, who once got close enough to shoot a bullet through their car.

TEAR GAS BOMBS, RIFLE FIRE USED TO SAVE NEGROES

Constitution
5-19-31
Atlanta, Ga.

Crowd Driven Back After Storming Jail Doors; Troops From Atlanta and Monroe Sent To Aid Elberton Units.

150 GUARDSMEN PLACED ON DUTY

One of Two Negroes Charges Other With Attack on Girl; 4 Suspects

Brought to Atlanta.

At 2:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, it was reported that order had been completely restored at Elberton. The two negroes were removed from their cells and were being brought to Atlanta by Company F of the Atlanta National guard.

ELBERTON, Ga., May 18.—(AP)—Rifle fire and tear gas bombs were used by national guardsmen here tonight in beating off a mob which attacked the jail where two negroes were under arrest charged with attacking a white woman. Two civilians were wounded.

Refusing to retire at the command of guardsmen, the crowd pressed closer. The troops threw gas bombs, but these proved unavailing. They then opened fire. One man, Emory Edwards, of Elberton, was wounded in the hip.

Later another civilian, Lyn Crowder, was shot in the leg when the crowd turned the fire hose into the jail. The source of this shot was not determined.

Unofficial reports from a hospital where Crowder was taken said his condition was serious and that amputation of his leg appeared necessary. Edwards was not considered badly wounded.

Assistant Police Chief C. W. Johnson said one of the negroes had confessed his part in the crime but charged the other one with actually committing it. Johnson said John Downer, who made the confession, had been partially identified by the woman as the one who attacked her.

Four other negroes were arrested early in the afternoon and were taken to Athens, Ga., by Sheriff S. G. Seymour and Officer Johnson. Johnson said that during this trip several men in an automobile attempted to overtake the officers' car and at one time got close enough to shoot a bullet through the car. No one was struck and the sheriff outdistanced them into Athens. The car had been struck by only one bullet. After the four suspects had been incarcerated a mob gathered around the jail but soon dispersed. Later, the four negroes were transferred from Athens to Fulton tower, Atlanta.

Major A. N. Drake was in command of the situation here from about 4:30 this afternoon until Colonel O'Keeffe's arrival about 7:30 tonight. Major Drake had about 40 men under his command.

Tear gas bombs were resorted to after the Elberton fire department had unsuccessfully attempted to calm the mob by turning the fire hose on the crowd. Members of the mob took the fire hose from the firemen and turned it on the troops, drenching them. It was then that the guardsmen utilized gas bombs and rifle fire to force the crowd back from the jail.

The tear gas bombs were picked up by the mob and hurled back at the troops. These bombs were described by officers as small affairs and not very effective.

The two local units of the Georgia national guard, one a machine gun outfit, and the other a headquarters company, were ordered on duty after a mob had attempted to get the negroes in jail and following appeals to Governor L. G. Hardman in Atlanta from the mayor, sheriff, police chief and judge of the Elberton city court. They went on duty late this afternoon and roped off a deadline around the jail.

National guard officers said several men had been hiding about 100 yards behind the jail about midnight and that they had several sticks of dynamite. The men were not taken into custody, officers said, but were warned against any further attempt to approach the jail. It was believed that the explosion a short time after the arrival of Captain Williamson and his troops from Monroe was from a shotgun, and not dynamite, as at first reported.

There has been occasional firing of guns from crowds near the courthouse, but it was not thought any shots had been directed toward the troops patroling the courthouse grounds.

Chief of Police Irvin late tonight said Judge E. T. Mosely and Solicitor Steve Skelton tomorrow will start action toward a speedy trial for the negroes. Colonel O'Keeffe said if trial was not started tomorrow the negroes will be taken to Atlanta.

Colonel G. P. O'Keefe, who was placed in command of the troops, reported to Adjutant General Homer C. Parker in Atlanta that on his arrival he found that the mob had entered the jail and had beaten the locks to the negroes' cell but had been unable to break the bars.

After the first troops went on duty the crowd quieted down, but later became more menacing and increased in numbers.

On receipt of word from Colonel O'Keefe of the situation, Adjutant General Parker sent Company F, a rifle company, from Atlanta and a howitzer company from Monroe, Ga., to reinforce the troops already on duty here.

The Atlanta company, commanded by Captain R. C. Endicott, took along 25 extra riflemen and a supply of powerful gas bombs.

The howitzer company from Monroe commanded by Captain A. E. Williamson, and the Atlanta company, were dispatched by special buses.

These reinforcements brought the total number of guardsmen under arms to over 150.

Before the troops fired the mob had cut the ropes and attempted to rush the jail. Colonel O'Keefe had orders to shoot any men who attempted to enter the jail, Adjutant General Parker said in Atlanta.

The troops on duty at the jail used tear gas bombs intermittently to keep the crowds back.

Before the troops had been requested Rev. Henry Brookshire, Baptist minister, and chief of Police W. H. Irwin had urged the crowd to let the law take its course.

The negroes were arrested early in the afternoon by Sheriff S. B. Seymour, of Elbert county.

At the same time an armed escort rushed four other negroes also held as suspects in the Elberton assault case, to safe-keeping in Atlanta, after word had been received that a mob planned an attempt to storm the Athens jail at 7 o'clock Monday night. The four negroes, arrested early Monday morning, had been spirited from Elberton to Athens by Sheriff Seymour as soon as the situation in Elberton grew serious. The party arrived at Atlanta at 6:35 o'clock.

Several hundred persons milled about in front of the Elberton jail all day.

The crime which has so aroused the Elberton county population is said to have occurred about 9 o'clock Sunday night. Ralph Craft, of Oglethorpe county, was driving with a young Elbert county girl when a negro stopped the car and forced the young white man to descend at the point of a pistol. The negro then pulled the girl from the car, it was said.

Sheriff Seymour states that the shoes of one of the suspects now held in the Elberton jail, tally with footprints at the scene of the assault. The negro is reported, however, as stating that he loaned his shoes to another negro Sunday night.

Chief Defies Mob.

Chief of Police H. W. Beusse, of Athens, refused the demand of a group of Elberton citizens, about 3 o'clock Monday afternoon, that he turn his four prisoners over to them. Later, when rumors of an attack to be made on the Clarke county jail at 7 o'clock were circulated, it was decided to remove the prisoners to Atlanta.

The negroes were loaded into two cars, while an advance car and a trailer filled with armed men were included in the motorcade. Officers armed with riot guns, rifles, pistols and shotguns filled the four cars while a delegation of prominent citizens, including Mayor A. G. Dudley, Charles E. Martin and several others, also accompanied the escort.

Martial law was declared in Elberton shortly after 3 o'clock. Long distance telephone calls to Governor Hardman from Judge Raymond Stapleton, of the Elberton city court; Sheriff Seymour, Mayor A. S. Hawes, of Elberton, and Chief W. H. Irwin, of the Elberton police force, described the situation as serious and the governor immediately issued the proclamation putting the city under martial law and ordered two companies of national guard troops called out to protect the prisoners.

Two Companies Assigned.

Adjutant General Homer C. Parker assigned the Headquarters company, Third Battalion, 122nd Infantry, and Company M, 122nd Infantry, to immediate duty in the emergency. Both companies have their home station in Elberton and were assembled within a few minutes after the order to duty was received.

Colonel Gerald P. O'Keeffe, commander of the 122nd Infantry, of Atlanta, was placed in active command at Elberton, with Major Andrew N. Drake, of Elberton, commander of the Third Battalion; Captain Elbert P. Tuttle, regimental adjutant, of Atlanta, and Captain Marion Williamson, of Atlanta, commander of the machine gun company, also on the scene.

The Atlanta officers took a supply of tear gas bombs with them to Elberton.

Interracial Head Lauds Officers For Averting Elberton Lynching

Constitution

5-20-31

Atlanta, Ga.

Prompt action of local and state officers in the Elberton case Monday, by which the attempted lynching of five [illegible] warmly commended in a statement given to the press Tuesday by Dr. Comer Woodward, of Emory University, chairman of the state interracial commission. Speaking for the commission Dr. Woodward said:

"Georgia and the south owe a debt of gratitude to local and state officers who yesterday at Elberton prevented what threatened to be one of the worst lynching horrors in the history of the state. By their prompt and vigorous action they not only vindicated the law upon which civilization and public safety depend; they also saved the reputation of Georgia and of the south from a monstrous blot of mob violence that today would have been known around the world. But for their determined resistance the mob apparently would have taken the lives of five men, four of them probably innocent and the fifth not definitely known to be guilty.

"The sheriff of Elbert county, the city officials of Elberton, the chief of police and mayor of Athens, the governor, and the officers and men whom he sent so promptly to quell the mob as well as a number of private citizens who lent their aid, should all have the warm thanks of right-thinking people. There still remains the duty of effective protection when the accused is brought to trial, but doubtless this need will be foreseen and provided for.

"Incidentally, the willingness of the Elberton mob to sacrifice four innocent men in order to destroy one supposed to be guilty is a good illustration of mob madness and a fair sample of mob justice. It is a good time to remind ourselves that the mob is never right."

NEW YORK TELEGRAM

MAY 19 1931

POLICE OUTWIT LYNCHING MOB

Prisoners with Lives Menaced Are Spirited Away in Army Uniforms.

By the Associated Press

ATLANTA, May 19.—Two Negroes charged with attacking a white girl were spirited away from a mob at Elberton this morning disguised in army uniforms and lodged on Fulton Tower here by national guardsmen.

The Negroes were hidden in trees surrounding the Elberton Jail for an hour and a half, militiamen said before they were put in an automobile and hurried to Atlanta.

Only a Few Watch.

Shortly after, the 200 guardsmen who had stood off a mob variously estimated from 2,500 to 5,000 mounted their trucks and buses and departed for their homes at Elberton, Monroe and Atlanta.

Only a few loiterers watched their departure.

At Fulton Tower the Negroes were booked as Hizak McCorley, 17, and John Dower, 25.

Two Wounded.

They joined four other Negroes hurried out of Elberton yesterday by Sheriff S. C. Seymour to Athens, and from there to Atlanta last night. The four booked as Theodus Cade, 22; Roy Huff, 25; Ernest Hill, 26, and Frank Junger, 25.

Two white men, E. A. Edwards, 28, and Glenn Crowder, 25, are in the Elbert County Hospital, suffering from gunshot wounds as the result of attacks upon the jail.

Dynamite Set Off.

Machine gun fire, tear grenades smoke bombs and fire hose were used by city and county officers and guardsmen in repulsing repeated attacks, two of which penetrated to the cell doors of the two Negroes. The mob succeeded, however, in wresting the fire hose from the officers and used it in breaking out jail windows and flooding the cells.

The Negroes were removed from the jail, militiamen said, when the mob threatened to blow up the building with dynamite.

NEW YORK TIMES

MAY 19

SHOTS AND GAS HALT MOB STORMING JAIL

Militia Hold Off Crowd Seeking Negro Accused of Attack at Elberton, Ga.

REINFORCEMENTS RUSHED

Two Men Wounded — Situation Is Called "Serious," as Hundreds in Mob Have Weapons.

ELBERTON, Ga., May 18 (AP).—National Guardsmen opened fire here tonight and used tear gas bombs to drive back a mob which attempted to attack the jail where a Negro, suspected of attack a white woman, is under arrest.

Two men were wounded in the firing. Dynamite was set off near the jail.

Colonel G. P. O'Keeffe estimated the crowd at 1,500 persons and described the situation as "very serious."

Three additional National Guard companies of Atlanta were en route here to reinforce the machine-gun company and headquarters company, which late this afternoon went on duty after a crowd demonstrated in front of the jail.

Sheriff Seymour's office said it was impossible to get out of the court house because gas from the bombs was hovering around the place where the mob had been standing. A sheriff's deputy said several hundred members of the mob were armed with rifles and shotguns.

The Negro was arrested about noon near here by Sheriff Walton of Wilkes County. The attack is said to have occurred last night.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAY 19 1931

Georgia Troops Fire Upon Mob And Save Negro

Lynching Party Storms Jail at Elberton and Turns Fire Hose Upon Soldiers

By The Associated Press

ELBERTON, Ga., May 18.—Rifle fire and tear gas bombs were used by national guardsman here tonight in beating off a mob which had attacked the jail where a Negro was held for an attack on a white woman. A civilian, Emory Edwards, was wounded.

Refusing to retire from the jail at the command of the guardsmen, the crowd drew closer and the troops threw tear gas bombs. These proving unavailing, the guardsmen opened fire.

The Elberton Fire Department failed to calm the mob with fire hose. The mob snatched the hose from the firemen and turned it on the troops. It was then that the guardsmen utilized gas bombs and rifle fire to force the crowd back. The bombs were picked up by the mob and hurled back at the troops.

The two Elberton units of the Georgia National Guard were ordered on duty following appeals to Governor L. G. Hardman in Atlanta from the mayor, sheriff, police chief and judge of the Elberton City Court. The troops went on duty late this afternoon, roping off a deadline around the jail.

Colonel G. P. O'Keeffe reported that on his arrival he found the mob had entered the jail and had beaten the locks to the Negro's cell but had been unable to break the bars. When the mob became more menacing, the state sent a rifle company from Atlanta and a Howitzer company from Monroe to reinforce the troops on duty. The Atlanta company, took twenty-five extra riflemen and a supply of gas bombs. These reinforcements brought the total number of guardsmen to more than 150.

Before the troops fired, the mob had cut the ropes and had rushed the jail.

BROOKLYN, N. Y

EAGLE

MAY 1 1 1931

Soldier Uniforms Save 2 Negroes From Lynch Mob

Elberton, Ga., Quiet After 2,000 Storm Jail—2 Men Are Wounded by Militia

Atlanta, Ga., May 19 (AP)—Two Negroes, charged with attacking a white girl, were spirited away from a mob at Elberton this morning disguised in army uniforms and lodged on Fulton Tower here by National Guardsmen.

The Negroes were hidden in trees surrounding the Elberton Jail for an hour and a half, militiamen said, before they were put in an automobile and hurried to Atlanta.

Two white men, E. A. Edwards, 28, and Glenn Crowder, 25, are in the Elbert County Hospital suffering from gunshot wounds as the result of attacks upon the jail.

Machine gun fire, tear grenades, smoke bombs and fire hose were used by city and county officers and guardsmen in repulsing repeated attacks.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Georgia

3429

ATLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION
JUN 7 - 1931

Prevention of Threatened Lynching Won Constitution Award for Sheriff Howell

First Time in History of County Crime Committed Not Followed by Mob Violence.

Details of the official acts performed by Sheriff Sid Howell, of Early county, for which he was designated by a committee of the Georgia County and Peace Officers' Association as winner of The Constitution's annual award for the most meritorious service in line of duty by a peace officer, were announced Saturday by Chief of Police Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, president of the association.

Chief Watkins was the winner of the award for the preceding year, both awards having been announced at the recent meeting of the association in Macon. The exploit for which he was honored was the capture of a trio of escaped convicts from West Virginia who had barricaded themselves in a house on the outskirts of Macon.

The following letter was received by The Constitution Saturday from Chief Watkins:

> Editor Constitution: I wish to thank you for the check which was presented to me on last Friday by your representative, which was the award for meritorious service for the year beginning June, 1929, and ending June, 1930.
>
> I also wish to inform you that the award committee of our association passed on a number of applications for the year beginning June, 1930, and ending June, 1931, and selected Mr. Sid Howell, sheriff of Early county, Blakely, Ga., as the officer to whom this award should be given. The presentation will be made at our next annual meeting, which will be in May, 1932, in Savannah.
>
> BEN T. WATKINS,
> President, Georgia County and Peace Officers' Association.

Prevented Probable Lynching.

The statement upon which the committee of the Peace Officers' Association gave the award to Sheriff Howell was signed by three prominent citizens of Early county—A. H. Gray, lawyer; S. P. Holland, physician, and R. O. Waters, banker—and gave him full credit for having prevented an almost certain lynching.

The statement was in part as follows:

"On Sunday night, December 14, 1930, Sheriff Howell was called upon to arrest a negro by the name of Edgar Jenkins for an attack claimed to have been committed upon two white girls, one 9 years of age, the other 11 years of age.

"Sheriff Howell immediately went to the home of the children, obtained from them, and from their father, all information available, and then started a search for the negro, first obtaining a promise from the father to say nothing of the crime until he obtained a further report and advice from the sheriff. Within three hours Sheriff Howell had the negro under arrest and in jail at Blakely, and soon thereafter took him to a jail in another county.

"As soon as the crime became generally known in the county great excitement prevailed, and talk of lynching the negro was commonly current.

"Sheriff Howell immediately called a meeting at the courthouse of the county commissioners and leading citizens from every section of the county. Included in this call were those persons whom Sheriff Howell recognized would be most likely to agitate a lynching of the negro, and who would act as leaders of a mob.

"This meeting was well attended, and, after some discussion, in which the harmful effects of mob violence were pointed out, every man present pledged his support and active assistance to Sheriff Howell in preventing the lynching of the negro when he was brought back to the county for trial at a special term of court, which Sheriff Howell assured would be called promptly.

"Sheriff Howell immediately communicated the result of this meeting to the circuit judge, who called a special term of Early superior court to convene on December 22, 1930, and a grand jury and petit jury were summoned for that date.

Leading Citizens Deputized.

"The special term of court convened as called. Sheriff Howell swore in a detail of special deputies, armed them, and placed them at strategic points about the courthouse, and in the courthouse, so placed and in sufficient numbers to prevent any concerted rush upon the courthouse. This detail of deputies was composed of the most outstanding citizens of the county, men whose influence alone would have great weight upon any body of their fellow citizens, and men, moreover, who were known to be fearless, and who would not retreat from a course of action once formed.

The negro was promptly indicted, brought into court, where the court appointed three attorneys to represent him. He was put upon trial during the same day, and found guilty upon two separate charges of rape, there being two bills returned against him. There was no room for doubt of his guilt. Indeed, he admitted his guilt to the sheriff after being arrested.

SHERIFF SID HOWELL.

"The jury promptly found the defendant guilty upon both indictments, and he was sentenced to be electrocuted on January 16, 1931, at which time the sentence was carried into effect. Immediately upon the conclusion of the trial Sheriff Howell with his force of deputies carried the negro to a jail in another county, where he was kept until he was taken to the state prison for electrocution.

"From the beginning to the end of this affair Sheriff Howell kept his own counsel, taking no one into his confidence, as to his handling of the matter. He moved quickly whenever it was necessary to have the prisoner in his custody. No one knew how he got the negro back to Blakely on the day he was tried, and when he left with him after the trial, as stated, he was under heavy guard.

"Early county has heretofore had a number of lynchings, and several outbreaks of mob violence on the part of whites directed toward negroes. It was freely predicted by numbers of people, in fact it was the general belief, that this negro would be lynched. That he was not is a source of much gratification to the law-abiding citizens of our county.

Used Cool Judgment.

"Sheriff Howell displayed splendid judgment, we believe, when called upon to arrest this negro, in proceeding alone and not calling in a posse, and in requiring the father of the victims to keep quiet until the culprit was apprehended. In this way the negro was safely in jail in another county before news of the crime became generally known. Knowing the prevalent sentiment against crimes of this nature, which is especially violent in this county, we confidently believe that had knowledge of this crime become general before the negro was arrested and removed, that he would assuredly have been lynched.

"Sheriff Howell's action in calling a public meeting of the substantial citizens of the county, and including with these the turbulent spirits who he knew would take the lead in stirring up public excitement, and who would act as leaders of a mob, should one be formed, was a master-stroke. The latter could not in such a meeting afford to label themselves as lawbreakers when called upon to give their pledge against mob violence, and, having given their word, could not well afford to break it. The assurance of the best element of our citizenry to Sheriff Howell that they would use their best efforts to prevent a lynching, to the extent of using force if it became necessary (some of these actually enlisted in the sheriff's detail of deputies at the trial), effectually dampened the mob spirit, which by then had obtained considerable momentum.

"We believe that strong public opinion in any given situation is one of the most effective weapons against mob violence, and this, by his tact and strategy Sheriff Howell effectually brought into play. So that, on the day of the trial there was absolutely no demonstration of any kind, and no evidence whatever of mob spirit. The situation at the trial, while naturally tense, was quiet and orderly in every respect.

"The fact that Sheriff Howell is known to the county at large as a man of determination, and of quick and positive action when the occasion demands, also had its effect, as he had announced that if the negro were brought to Blakely for trial that there would be no lynching, and it was well known that Sheriff Howell would make good that statement with his life if necessary.

This is the first time in the history of Early county that the perpetrator of the crime of which the negro was convicted has not been lynched. We believe that Sheriff Howell, by his effective handling of this situation, has set a precedent which will go a long way toward preventing future mob violence in this county."

HERALD
Albany, Ga
MAY 30 1931

Sheriff Sid Howell Awarded Prize for Meritorious Act

Early County Officer Prevented Lynching of Negro Accused of Rape.

MACON, Ga., May 30 (AP).—Recognition of outstanding police work today was accorded Ben T. Watkins, chief of Macon police, and Sid Howell, Blakely, Ga., sheriff of Early County, by the newly-organized Georgia County and Peace Officers Association.

Chief Watkins, who also was elected president of the new association which was formed by merger of the Georgia Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association and the Georgia County Officers Association, was awarded the Atlanta Constitution prize yesterday for his work in directing the capture of three escaped convicts from West Virginia. The convicts, Basil Childers, Adrian and Dana Bias, were captured January 20, 1930.

Sheriff Howell will be presented the Constitution prize at the meeting of the organization in Savannah next year. He is credited with preventing the lynching of a Negro accused of assaulting two young white girls. The committee recommeding the award for Sheriff Howell said it was the first time in the history of Early County a Negro guilty of "rape upon a white woman has not been lynched."

Other officers elected yesterday were: Thomas H. Jeffries, Atlanta, first vice president; William C. Walton, Cartersville, second vice president; Usher T. Winslett, Macon, third vice president; John Richardson, Hartwell, secretary; and H. G. Bradley, Atlanta, treasurer. Mr. Watkins served three terms as head of the Georgia Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Thursday, August 20, 1931

Foils Attempt To Lynch Negro

Douglas, Ga., Aug. 20 (AP)—Sheriff R. C. Relihan today reported he withstood a crowd of 100 persons who gathered at the Coffee county jail where Alonzo Roberson, negro, was held in connection with the slaying last night of Henry Nettles, 33.

The sheriff said he took the negro to an unnamed jail after the crowd made a demonstration in front of the jail.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Sunday, Jul[illegible]

GUARDIANS OF THE PEACE.

Elsewhere in this issue is published a detailed account of the brave and intelligent conduct of Sheriff Sid Howell, of Early county, as a result of which he won The Constitution's annual medal and cash award to the Georgia peace officer performing the most meritorious service in line of duty for the 12 months' period ending June 1.

The difference in the nature of the service performed by Sheriff Howell and that rendered by Chief of Police Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, for which he was given the award for the preceding year, illustrates the wide scope of the responsibilities of a peace officer.

While Sheriff Howell in rendering the service for which he was given the award did not face the personal danger which confronted Chief Watkins when he directed the capture of a gang of desperadoes who constituted a grave menace to the peace of his community, his cool and decisive steps in preventing an almost certain lynching was of no less value to the people of his community.

Notified of the perpetration of a heinous crime, the Early county sheriff quickly arrested the guilty party and spirited him away to jail in another county, carefully following a course of action calculated to frustrate any effort at mob violence. Of his own volition he then called a meeting of representatives of every class of citizens in the county, at which plans were laid to safeguard the prisoner when he was brought back for the quick justice which was later meted out to him by the courts.

Such official acts as those of Chief Watkins and Sheriff Howell are shining examples of fidelity to duty to every peace officer in Georgia. It was for the dual purpose of giving due recognition to such outstanding service, and through the resultant widespread publicity to bring to all peace officers in the state a fuller realization of the scope of their duties that The Constitution inaugurated its annual awards.

To that end, the co-operation of every citizen of the state is invited in bringing to light any act of a peace officer whereby the safety of our citizens had been assured, either through the commission of a deed of heroism or through the rendition of service requiring moral bravery and wise decisions.

The Constitution feels honored in being able to present its first two awards to such outstanding public servants as Chief Watkins and Sheriff Howell and earnestly commends their bravery in the face of danger and their conception of the wide scope of their duties and responsibilities to their fellow officers.

TIMES
Union City, Ind.
JUL 9 1931

HOW TO PREVENT LYNCHING

The sheriff at Elberton, Ga., believes that prisoners entrusted to his care should be protected against mob violence.

He did not consider himself helpless and unable to defend two Negroes that had been placed in his jail.

When he heard that a mob of 1,500 persons was planning to take them away, he demanded troops. Tear bombs and bullets checked the rush of the mob, and its members quickly departed.

The Elberton lynching was frustrated by the determination of a sheriff to prevent an outrage. He was not worried about the presence of neighbers and fellow townsmen in the mob but was concerned about upholding the dignity of the law.

The state of Georgia listed seven of the 25 lynchings recorded in 1931. If other ,Georgia sheriffs follow the example set ot Elberton the number of lynchings in that state will be decreased in 1931.

The two lynchings at Marion last year could have been prevented if the sheriff of Grant county had removed his prisoners or called for guradsmen.

A sheriff has sufficient official power to protect his prisoners. Most lynchings are the result of a cowardly attitude on the part of public officials who are intimidated by threats. If they would answer the threats with a determined display of power, the members of the mob would quickly lose their desire to storm a jail and lynch a prisoner.

TIMES
Union City, Ind.
JUL 9 1931

HOW TO PREVENT LYNCHING

The sheriff at Elberton, Ga., believes that prisoners entrusted to his care should be protected against mob violence.

He did not consider himself helpless and unable to defend two Negroes that had been placed in his jail.

When he heard that a mob of 1,500 persons was planning to take them away, he demanded troops. Tear bombs and bullets checked the rush of the mob, and its members quickly departed.

The Elberton lynching was frustrated by the determination of a sheriff to prevent an outrage. He was not worried about the presence of neighbers and fellow townsmen in the mob but was concerned about upholding the dignity of the law.

The state of Georgia listed seven of the 25 lynchings recorded in 1931. If other Georgia sheriffs follow the example set ot Elberton the number of lynchings in that state will be decreased in 1931.

The two lynchings at Marion last year could have been prevented if the sharif of Grant county had removed his prisoners or called for guradsmen.

A sheriff has sufficient official power to protect his prisoners. Most lynchings are the result of a cowardly attitude on the part of public officials who are intimidated by threats. If they would answer the threats with a determined display of power, the members of the mob would quickly lose their desire to storm a jail and lynch a prisoner.

SHERIFF OF CHATHAM, MERRITT DIXON DIES

Constitution

Widely-Known South Georgian Succumbs in Savannah Hospital

8-22-31

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 21.—(AP)—Merritt W. Dixon, sheriff of Chatham county f[illegible] number of years, died here to[illegible] at a local hos[illegible] of critical illn[illegible]

Atlanta

Colonel Dixon was widely known in south Georgia because of being engaged many years in the lumber business. Under the old firm name of Dixon, Mitchell and Company he owned extensive timber lands in the lower part of the state. He had been in partnership for many years with the late James M. Dixon, his brother. Another member of the firm was John L. Foy, now commissioner of city police here.

Colonel Dixon gained notoriety here some years ago when a mob gathered in front of Chatham county jail and threatened to storm it in an effort to secure a negro prisoner accused of a major crime. The sheriff stood outside the jail walls, he also having been county jailer, and informed the mob that he did not intend to give up any prisoner before he lost his own life. The mob did not get the prisoner, the sheriff's forces being augmented later by local military when the mob's size became alarming.

The dead officer was prominent in the Independent Presbyterian church, of which he was a member.

Funeral arrangements have not been made.

SHERIFF MOVES NEGRO TO FOIL DOUGLAS MOB

Constitution

8-21-31

Alleged Killer Taken to Unnamed Jail After Demonstration.

Atlanta, Ga.

DOUGLAS, Ga., Aug. 20.—(AP)—Sheriff R. O. Relihan today reported he had withstood a crowd of 100 persons who gathered at the Coffee county jail where Alonzo Roberson, negro, was held in connection with the slaying last night of Henry Nettles, 33, and taken the negro to another jail.

The sheriff said he took the negro to an unnamed jail when the crowd made a demonstration in front of the jail.

Nettles was fatally wounded with a knife last midnight near the tobacco warehouse section of Douglas. He lived for about 40 minutes after being slashed and, the sheriff declared, said the negro had gone to buy some whisky for him. Upon returning he demanded money Nettles had obtained from selling a quantity of tobacco yesterday.

When the money was refused, the sheriff said, the negro attacked Nettles. He described his assailant and Roberson was arrested early today. The crowd gathered at the jail about 9:30 o'clock, the sheriff said, but was outwitted.

Officers said a man named Higgins had been arrested as a witness in the case and other arrests might follow.

SHERIFF AVERTS NEGRO LYNCHING

Telegraph

Willie Jackson Identified as Would-Be Assailant

12-6-31

MOB ATTACKS JAIL DOOR

Macon, Ga.

MOULTRIE, Ga., Dec. 5.—Having single handedly thwarted an effort made by a mob of between two and three hundred men to storm the jail and remove Willie Jackson, Negro farm hand, who is alleged to have attempted to attack a member of the Berlin school faculty, early this week, while she was driving to her work, Sheriff T. V. Beard said today that he did not believe that any further attempts would be made to reach the Negro. Conditions in the Berlin section have quieted down, the officer said.

The mob which came here to break into the jail was composed largely of those who had "just come along to see what would happen," officers said. A demand was made on the sheriff to surrender keys to the prison. This he refused. He then stood on the front steps of the jail and said that the Negro was in his custody and that under the law it was his solemn responsibility to protect him.

Iron Door Attacked.

Several men then with a heavy iron bar tried to beat down the huge steel door leading to the corridor of the jail. They kept this up several minutes, but only slight damage was done.

The victim was identified Jackson as the Negro who tried to attack her. The Negro will be tried in January.

Lynchings-1931
6
Prevented

Indiana

3428

3428

YOUTHS RUSHED TO REFUGE AT REFORMATORY

Indianapolis Recorder

7-11-31

Cameron, Sullivan, Whisked Heavily Armed Sheriffs, Colored Citizens Prepared To Shed Blood In Their Prisoner's Defense

Indianapolis Ind.

ANDERSON, Ind., July 10.—Another double lynching episode comparable to that perpetrated in Marion last year and possibly a bloody race riot, were narrowly averted here Wednesday afternoon when Madison county authorities removed Herbert Cameron, age 17, and Robert Sullivan, age 18 of Marion, from the county jail and took them to the Indiana State reformatory near Pendleton for safe keeping.

A jury verdict returned in Circuit court Tuesday night finding the Cameron boy guilty of voluntary manslaughter in connection with the killing last August of Claude Deeter, white, of Fairmount, had the effect early Wednesday of precipitating an ugly feeling that led to a rumor that a mob was being formed by the lower elements of Grant county and Anderson to storm the jail and lynch Cameron. Cameron's two companions, Abe Smith and Thomas Smith were lynched on the Grant county court [illegible] last August.

Sullivan Tried Weeks Ago

The Sullivan boy was tried a few weeks ago by Judge Carl F. Morrow in connection with a hold-up allegedly committed by Sullivan, Cameron-Shipp and Smth, prior to the killing of the white boy. Cameron and Sullivan are both awaiting their sentences.

Word of the contemplated double lynching spread throughout this city as if by magic. Telepone calls from Marion, Farmland, Portland and other nearby towns flooded Anderson with the announcement that an attempt was being planned to "spring" Cameron because of light penalty youth will receive. These warnings were sent out by police officers, sheriffs and others.

Colored Citizens To Arms

In the meantime, determined colored Anderson citizens, hundreds of them, armed to the teeth and well organized, stationed themselves at strategic points throughout the city prepared to give the lynchers a really peppery time in the old town Wednesday.

Quick action of the local authorities prevented what would have inevitably flared into a bitter race riot the like of which has never been witnessed in the State of Indiana.

Heavily armed deputies whisked Cameron and Sullivan away in a machine at 3 p. m. Sullivan was less apprehensive of the impending danger than was Cameron, who no doubt recalled his experience at Marion last year when he was saved by a hairs breath from the awful fate that befell Shipp and Smith.

Sullivan was in the Grant county jail when its doors were battered down by the lynchers.

2nd Time At Reformatory

For the second time the reformatory at Pendleton will serve as a plac eof refuge for the youths, Cameron and Sullivan, were removed there a few hours followng the lynchng of Smth and Shipp. They remained in the institution until last October 9, when their cases were filed in the Circuit court here on changes of venue.

It is said that Cameron and Sullivan will serve their sentences at the reformatory.

Because of Wednesday's happenings much secrecy will surround the bringing of the two boys back to be sentenced.

N mob appeared to take advantage of arrangements made Wednesday by attaches to take the lynchers through the jail to show them that the youths had been removed

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Pal of Lynched Boys Gets [illegible] to 21 Years

Chicago Ill

7-18-31

ANDERSON, Ind., July 16.—Elbert Cameron, 17 years old, who was tried on charges of murder and assault, was found guilty by a jury of voluntary manslaughter this week and was sentenced to from two to 21 years in the Indiana reformatory.

Cameron, it will be remembered, was accused of complicity in the fatal shooting of Claude Deeter, 24 years old, of Fairmont, and of assault of Deeter's fiance, Miss Mary Ball, 19, of Marion, Aug. 6, 1930, which resulted in the lynching of Tom Shipp and Abraham Smith in Marion the following day.

Cameron was rescued from the mob and taken to the Indiana reformatory for safety until brought here for trial.

THE ANDERSON NEAR RIOT

Recorder

Quick and intelligent action on the part of Anderson authorities in spiriting Herbert Cameron and Robert Sullivan to safety Wednesday afternoon prevented what many think might have resulted in a bloody race clash.

Indianapolis, Ind

A jury verdict finding Cameron guilty of voluntary manslaughter in connection with the killing of a white boy had the effect of precipitating a storm of protest in the ranks of the lesser desirable whites in Marion, Anderson and surrounding towns.

Objecting to what they referred to as the light penalty which Cameron will receive these people are alleged to have plannd to take the law into their own hands. Thus, had the threats materialized Cameron would have suffered the same barbarous fate suffered by his less fortunate associates, Abe Smith and Thomas Shipp, on the Grant county courthouse lawn last August. What fate was in store for the Sullivan boy we are not in a position to know. But it is safe to say that in the unbridled rage of the potential mob he too would possibly have been wantonly murdered.

7-18-31

According to a special Anderson dispatch to The Indianapolis Recorder, hundreds of colored citizens of that city were prepared to protect the lives of the youths with their lives. This, they decided to do because of what had previously happened in the neighboring city of Marion. Armed to the teeth the men stationed at strategic points waited for the heralded mob that did not appear on the scene. And so, thanks to the good judgment of the authorities, a possible massacre of innocent lives was happily averted.

The alleged action of colored men in this case was commendable in that it was intended to uphold the dignity of the law, and save Anderson's name from what may have been its first bath in blood. It was a splendid evidence of characteristic patriotism.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Kentucky

3430

NEGRO MUST DIE IN CHAIR

Commercial Appeal
4-29-31

Sentenced to Death; Guardsmen Save Negro Lawyer.

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky., April 28.—(AP)—Walter Dewberry, one of three negroes charged with the murder of Thomas Tillery, farmer, was convicted tonight in Hardin County circuit court and sentenced to death in the electric chair. The jury deliberated only 13 minutes.

Dewberry was accused of firing the shot that killed Tillery when the three attempted to rob his home April 6. Walter Holmes and Charles Rodgers, his companions, will go on trial tomorrow.

As the hearing opened this afternoon National Guardsmen rescued Dewberry's negro lawyer from a crowd of men and boys that knocked him down and beat him as he attempted to enter the courthouse.

As Rev. C. Eubank Tucker fell amidst shouts of "Get him," "Beat him," several guardsmen fired shots into the air to frighten the crowd of approximately 1,000 persons who jammed the courthouse square to witness the trial of Walter Dewberry for slaying of Thomas Tillery, a farmer.

Tucker ran into a hotel lobby where he was given medical attention. Meanwhile, J. R. Layman, counsel for the Tillery family mounted a box and pleaded with the crowd for law and order.

LINCOLN, NEB.
EVE. STATE JOURNAL
APR 30 1931

The attack on a negro lawyer in Elizabethtown, Ky., is one of the most brutal of the many crimes incited by a blind race prejudice. The perpetrators did not even have the excuse, poor tho it is, that they were expediting justice or taking the law in their own hands. This man was not the accused. He was merely a negro lawyer defending negroes accused of murder.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
TIMES
APR 30 1931

ELIZABETHTOWN HOODLUMISM SHOULD BE PUNISHED

A handful of Elizabethtown hoodlums, attacking C. EUBANK TUCKER, a Louisville Negro, when, and apparently solely because, he was in Elizabethtown defending a Negro in a murder case gave widespread ill advertisement to their town.

The ill effect of their misconduct will be lessened if indictments and convictions reflect the local public's sense of its seriousness as wanton injustice to an individual, and as an affront to the dignity and the peace of the community and as an exhibition of moronic indulgence in cowardly brutality.

Unpunished, such an act as an attack on an unoffending Negro attorney will be accepted widely as reflecting majority sentiment of Elizabethtown, which, of course, it does not reflect, in the opinion of anyone who knows the city and its people.

NEGRO HELD IN DEATH OF RAILROAD DETECTIVE

RICHMOND, Ky., Dec. 25.—(AP)—After wounding two persons during a fight, Jeff Covington, 31, negro fatally shot James Turner, 57, Louisville & Nashville railroad detective, at a railroad crossing here today.

Police said Covington had critically wounded Howard Smith, 23, negro, and slightly wounded Phil Owens, 30, negro, several squares from where he shot Turner.

12-26-31

After wounding the two men, Covington fled down the railroad tracks and, according to witnesses, shot Turner when he saw the detective talking [illegible] Earl Abney, crossing watchman. Abney said Covington shot Turner once and then fired three more times at him after the officer fell. Turner fired five times at Covington and wounded him in the hand.

Covington was charged with murder and place in jail here under heavy guard.

Negro Is Spirited From Jail After Mob's Threat

RICHMOND, KY., Dec. 26.—(AP)—Jeff Covington, negro, accused of slaying James Turner, a Louisville and Nashville detective, Christmas Day, was removed from Madison County Jail today after authorities had received reports that a mob planned to storm the jail tonight.

Sheriff John McWilliams, who removed the negro, declined to reveal the place to which he was taken.

12-27-31

County Judge John D. Goodloe said he had been told a mob from the southern part of Madison County would come to Richmond. Turner had relatives in that section. "While I personally doubt that such would have occurred, we thought it best to take all precautions," Judge Goodloe said.

Howard Smith, one of two negroes said to have been wounded by Covington before Turner was slain, was in a critical condition tonight.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented.

Kentucky

3431

THANK GOD! SHERIFF IS A REAL MAN

Whig

Turned Machine Guns On Lynch Mob; Told Them To Disperse; They Did

1-31-31

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky., Jan. 28.—ANP—The desire to lynch Sam McGee, charged with the slaying of an 18 year old white youth, is believed to have waned a bit since Sheriff Barrett E. Brown announced that he was prepared to shoot it out with the mob in defense of the prisoner who was brought here for safe-keeping.

Chicago Def.

McGee is charged with killing of Charles Clark and following the slaying mobs raided two Kentucky jails in quest of the alleged killer. He was brought here recently and it was reported that the mob, traveling in automobiles, was enroute here.

Upon receiving the report, Sheriff Brown immediately started making necessary preparations. Machine guns were mounted in the jail and the courthouse and the deputies were armed with rifles and tear gas bombs. Sheriff Brown, who was cited for valiant service during the Great World War, let it be known that he did not mind shooting it out with the mob and that if members appeared in the vicinity of the jail they would be in for a hot time.

Additional officers were pressed into service and every precaution was taken for the protection of the prisoner. In the meantime the mob was searching other jails but passed the local jail where the prisoner is being held under heavy guard.

"There may be a whole lot of blood-shed but there will be no lynching here." the sheriff is reported as saying to those who brought the tidings that a large number of white were en route here bent upon lynching McGee. The mob evidently "took the sheriff at his word" and latest reports state that the threats of violence have even subsided in Paducah where the killing occurred.

McGee has declared that he had nothing whatever to do with the killing of the white youth and stated that when he is brought to trial he will be able to establish an alibi. which would be supported by a group of reputable white folks. Kentucky has an anti-lynching law which costs the county in which a lynching occurs $5,000, payable to the family of the victim.

Crowd Searches Jail In Vain For Two Negroes

Advertiser

MAYFIELD, KY., Jan. 20.—(AP)—A crowd of between 75 and 100 men tonight searched the County Jail for two negro suspects in a fatal holdup at Paducah, Ky., but failed to find their quarry. The negroes had been removed to a jail in another county early today.

1-21-31

The men, traveling in automobiles, then left the city toward the South in the direction of Murray, Ky., and Tennessee. License plates on some of the machines had McCracken County (Paducah), while on others the plates had been torn off or mutilated. Several of the men carried arms.

Montgomery Ala.

Jailer L. F. Barger was not at the jail at the time, but when leaders of the crowd asked permission to search the jail they were led through the building by Mrs. Barger. They then went to the City Hall, where several police cells are located, were permitted to search for them, and departed.

THREATS OF VIOLENCE SUBSIDE AS SHERIFF MOUNTS MACHINE GUNS

Courier

1-31-31

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Kentucky Mob Told They Will Have to Face Hot Lead to Get Prisoner — "May Be Bloodshed, But No Lynching," He Says.

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky., Jan. 29—(A. N. P.)—The desire to lynch Sam McGee, charged with the slaying of an 18-year-old white youth, is believed to have waned a bit since Sheriff Barrett E. Brown announced that he was prepared to shoot it out with the mob in defense of the prisoner, who was brought here for safe-keeping. McGee is charged with the killing of Charles Clark and following the slaying mobs raided two Kentucky jails in quest of the alleged killer. He was brought here recently and it was reported that the mob, traveling in automobiles, was en route here.

Upon receiving the report Sheriff Brown immediately started making necessary preparations. Machine-guns were mounted in the jail and the courthouse, and the deputies were armed with rifles and tear-gas bombs. Sheriff Brown, who was cited for valiant service during the great World War, let it be known that he did not mind shooting it out with the mob and that if the members appeared in the vicinity of the ail they would be in for a hot time.

Additional officers were pressed into service and every precaution was taken for the protection of the prisoner. In the meantime the mob was searching other jails, but passed the local jail, where the prisoner is being held under heavy guard.

"There may be a whole lot of blood shed, but there will be no lynching here," the sheriff is reported as saying to those who brought the tidings that a large number of whites were en route here, bent upon lynching McGee. The mob evidently "took the sheriff at his word," and latest reports state that the threats of violence have even subsided in Paducah, where the killing occurred.

McGee has declared that he had nothing whatever to do with the killing of the white youth and stated that when he is brought to trial he will be able to establish an alibi which would be supported by a group of reputable white folks.

MACHINE GUN COOLS BLOOD OF MOB

Kansas City Call

1-28-31

Kansas City, Mo.

Kentucky Sheriff Says "There May Be Bloodshed, But No Lynching"

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky.—(ANP)—The desire to lynch Sam McGee, charged with the slaying of an 18 year old white youth, is believed to have waned a bit since Sheriff Barrett E. Brown announced that he was prepared to shoot it out with the mob in defense of the prisoner who was brought here for safe-keeping.

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N. Y. EVENING POST

JAN 21 1931

PRISONER GUARDED AGAINST MOB FURY

Guns Mounted in Kentucky Jail After Search of Two Others for Suspected Slayer

HELD AS KILLER IN HOLDUP

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky., Jan. 21 (AP).—Though believing a band of men who searched two western Kentucky jails had dispersed, officers today did not relax their vigilance in guarding the Christian County jail, where Sam McGee, a Negro, was held after his indictment by ~~the McCrac~~ken County Grand Jury for the slaying of Charles Clark, eighteen, in a holdup.

City and County jails at Mayfield and Paducah were searched last night by mobs of armed men. Officials in charge offered no resistance. Meanwhile Christian County officers were notified and a heavy guard was posted here.

Clark was slain Saturday night at Paducah when he and his father-in-law, George Rock, resisted a holdup by two Negroes. One of the bandits was slain. McGee was arrested later and charged with the slaying of Clark. Fear of violence caused McCracken County officials to transfer him to a jail outside the county.

The jail here was being guarded today by all available city and county police officers assisted by special deputies. Three submachine guns were mounted in the jail entrance.

MOB SPIRIT DOMINATES TRIAL

Sam McGee, a colored man charged with murder, received a death sentence at the hands of a jury at Paducah, Kentucky a few days ago while state troops guarded the court. In the meanwhile about three hundred bloodthirsty mobbists milled about the courthouse and grounds, demanding the life of the victim thruout the abbreviated trial which in all lasted about thirty minutes.

To our way of thinking, the victim in this case has not had a fair trial according to law. It was a clear case of a trial according to the dictates of the mob. In other words, the mob on the outside tells the court and the jury, "If you do not kill the Negro, we will." With this condition prevailing, we wonder if there is anybody in this country who would say that the victim has had a fair trial.

Argus 2-13-31

We are further advised that the victim had witnesses which he had hoped to use to prove an alibi, but he was advised that such witnesses might anger the mob and bloodshed might follow. Of course, we deplore lynching because its a breaking down of the law and of orderly government; but, when the mobs can dictate and dominate the courts, we do not see where we have gained any ground toward a higher civilization in the administering of justice.

St. Louis, Mo.

In this case, the mob had been hounding its victim for a month. Sheriffs and peace officers had been hiding with the prisoner eluding the mob as the victim was spirited from one place to another for safe keeping. On the day of the farcical trial, the mob followed the victim to the courthouse door, and it had some of its members on the inside to see what went on during the trial. That's not justice at all. There was hardly a pretention of justice. It was a case of just "going through the motion."

Surely, there is something radically wrong with the method of handling mobs on the part of peace officers. Mobs ought to be dealt with the same as any other criminals. We think that sheriffs run too much with their prisoners. They should take a stand and defy the mobs. And if, by so doing, a few of the leaders of the mobs get killed, such killings will have a salutary affect upon mobs all over this country. The thing which makes the mobs so bold and determined is the leaders do not believe that they will be hurt or in any way punished for their acts. If they thought for one moment that their lives were in danger, there would be no one to lead a mob. And the sooner the peace officers can convince the mob leaders that they act at their own peril, the shorter will be the life of mob violence in this country.

Dresden, Tenn., Enterprise
Friday, April 24, 1931

NEGRO ADMITS ATTACK ON TEACHER, ESCAPES IN 1927

Hickman, Ky., April 20.—Andrew Jones, alias Newberry, negro who escaped from a mob near Dresden four years ago, was taken to jail at Paducah tonight for safekeeping after he had been identified by a white woman as the man who attempted to attack her last week.

Sheriff Goalder Johnson said Jones was suspected of attacking a young girl in Mississippi county, Missouri, Thursday night. He was arrested on a ferry when it arrived here from Charleston, Mo. The girl, brought here Saturday was not certain he was the man.

Chief of Police Colley Warren of Martin identified Jones as the negro who escaped from a mob between Martin and Dresden four years ago, when he was being taken to jail at Dresden. Jones admitted tonight he was the one wanted at Martin where he was charged with attacking a school teacher, but denied the crimes in Missouri and Hickman.

KENTUCKY MOB ATTACKS LAWYER

Afro-American

(By Wire to the AFRO)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — C. Eubank Tucker, attorney, of Louisville, was attacked by a mob of whites at Elizabethtown, Ky., for defending Walter Dewberry on trial for murder and robbery. Tucker was returning from lunch when set upon.

The state troops patrolled the city during the trial, and rescued Mr. Tucker.

5-2-31

Dewberry was found guilty and sentenced to death in thirteen minutes.

Charles Rogers and Walter Holmes will go on trial Friday for the same crime of killing a white farmer.

More troops have been ordered by state officials to prevent mob action, for the feeling is running high in Elizabethtown, which is a small city.

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3 Negroes Sentenced To Death For Murder

Advertiser

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY., May 2.—(AP)—Death sentences were formally passed here late today upon three negroes accused of the murder of a farmer April 6 after a series of robberies. Two of the men have been identified as having attacked two women near Fulton, Ky., and three in East St. Louis, Ill., in robberies that began early in March.

5-3-31

Charles Rogers was convicted late today by a jury that deliberated two hours. Walter Holmes and Walter Dewberry, the latter charged with being the man who actually shot Thomas Tillery, 55, were convicted earlier in the week. Rogers and Holmes were identified in the attack cases. Circuit Judge George K. Holbert sentenced all three to die in the electric chair at Eddyville Monday, June 15. Notices of appeals were filed in behalf of them.

As a precaution 89 National Guardsmen and 21 special deputies were on duty around the court house.

NEGROES GO TO TRIAL.

Commercial Appeal

Soldiers Guard Pair Accused of Kentucky Murder.

BOWLING GREEN, Ky., April 27.—(AP)—Eighteen national guardsmen and two officers from Bowling Green have been ordered to Elizabethton tomorrow to preserve order during the trial of Charles Rodgers and Walter Holmes, negroes, charged with having slain Thomas Tillery, Hardin County farmer, several weeks ago.

4-28-31

The troops will leave here tomorrow morning. They are members of the local guard units.

These negroes also were identified as attackers of two women at Fulton, Ky., and other women in East St. Louis.

NEGRO SAFE AT PADUCAH.

Commercial Appeal

Hickman Assailant Spirited Away From Irate Citizens.

4-20-31

PADUCAH, Ky., April 19.—Andrew Jones, 28, negro, arrested Saturday at Hickman for the attempted assault of Mrs. Charles Butch King, 35, of near Hickman, and for the alleged assault of a young girl in Mississippi County, Missouri, was being carefully guarded in the McCracken County jail here today. He was brought here by Fulton County officers late Saturday night for safekeeping.

The attempted attack on Mrs. King occurred last Monday. Mrs. King was in a barn when she was accosted by the negro and her screams brought her husband to the scene. The negro escaped into Missouri, where he is charged with criminally attacking a young girl. He was brought to Paducah when mob spirit ran high in Hickman.

Lawyer Beaten by Mob in Kentucky

Defender

ELIZABETH, Ky., May 1.—Unable to lynch three men held for murder and rape, and being tried here, a mob of more than 2,000 white people of Hardin county attacked C. Eubank Tucker, prominent attorney and minister of Louisville, and beat him almost to death Tuesday.

The attack on Attorney Eubank came as he was walking across the Hardin county courthouse lawn on his way to defend Walter Dewberry, 22-year-old Chicagoan, who was being tried for the murder of Tom Tillery and rape of two women at Hickman.

5-2-31

Tucker was rescued from the mob by National Guardsmen who prevented the lynching of Dewberry, and rushed to the office of Dr. J. I. Taylor, where his injuries were treated. He then returned to the courtroom, and although in a weakened condition from injuries and loss of blood, proceeded with the defense of Dewberry. The man was found guilty in record time, in spite of Tucker's pleadings, and was sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Chicago

For several days this town has been a seething mass of mob-minded humanity. Special trains have brought people here from all over the state and all hotel rooms are at a premium. National guard troops are everywhere in evidence with fixed bayonets and the atmosphere is tense.

Dewberry, Walter Holmes and Charles Rogers were arrested when they stopped here for gas for the car in which they were driving from Chicago to Louisville. At once the cry went up that the men who had killed Tom Tillery, a farmer who had been beaten to death several weeks ago, had been caught. Police authorities claimed that these men also met the description of the men said to have attacked two women of Hickman shortly after Tillery was beaten to death.

The mob quickly formed and has been gathering in and around Elizabethtown ever since it became known that the trial would be held here. At the opening of the case on Monday Judge George K. Holbert, who is hearing the evidence, appointed J. E. Wise and Haynes Carter, lawyers, to defend the three men. When Attorney Tucker came from Louisville and announced that he had been retained to defend Dewberry, the white attorneys quit the case.

Mrs. Tillery, testifying against Dewberry, told that she saw a face at the window and that she saw a "Negro" enter. She said that she crawled under the bed after that but could hear the dull blows being struck on her husband's head with pistol butts. She did not identify the men on trial.

Although the attack on Attorney Tucker occurred in broad daylight, and many of the members of the mob are known, no one was arrested. The mob is still on the scene in front of the courthouse, and although the troops have been reinforced, more trouble is expected.

Orangeb'g, S. C. Times & Democrat
Thursday, April 30, 1931

Troops Protect Negro Attorney

Lawyer Beaten by Mob in Kentucky Town While Defending Accused

Elizabethtown. Ky April 29 (AP)—National guardsmen, their forces increased by additional detachments summoned from surrounding towns after a group of men attacked a negro lawyer, patrolled the Hardin county courthouse today, guarding three negroes accused of slaying Thomas Tillery, farmer.

One of the negroes, Walter Dewberry, is under sentence to die in the state of firing the shot that convicted him and set the penalty deliberated only 13 minutes last night. Dewberry was accused by the state of firing thes hot that killed Tillery when the trio attempted to rob his home April 8.

C. Eubank Tucker Dewberry's attorney, was attacked by a group of men when he arrived for the trial yesterday, and was cut and bruised in the ensuing beating. The trouble occurred near the courthouse, but subsided when the troops fired into the air.

Lynchings - 1931
Prevented

Minnesota

PRESS
Mankato, Minn
SEP 7 1931

ATTEMPT TO LYNCH NEGRO AT ANOKA

Crowd Dispersed And Prisoner Is Taken To Minneapolis; Accused of Attacking Girl

Anoka, September 7—An attempt to lynch a young negro at Anoka after he had been arrested on a charge of mistreating an eight-year-old girl resulted Sunday in the transfer of the prisoner to Minneapolis to prevent further demonstrations.

The negro, who is employed as a mechanic and attendant in an Anoka garage, was lodged in the Hennepin county jail Sunday night.

Attempts to enter the Anoka jail to take him were made shortly after dusk Saturday by a party of men who stormed the place while the jailer was absent.

Dispersed Without Trouble

With some of them armed, more than 20 men were reported to have attempted to enter the jail through doors and windows.

They were dispersed without any trouble and the authorities took immediate steps to thwart further attempts to storm the jail.

The negro was arrested by Chief of Police John Melberg following complaints from two boys that he attempted to mistreat the girl in a warehouse earlier in the day and was frightened when the girl screamed.

A short time later he was arrested. When the news of his arrest circulated around the city, groups of men were said to have gathered in various sections, making threats to "get the negro."

Subterfuge Fails

Shortly after dusk two men came to the jail and told John Larson, jailer, that there had been an accident at a bridge crossing the Mississippi river. Larson took the patrol car and started for the scene of the supposed accident, but when two blocks from the jail thought the matter over and decided to return.

He drove through an alley to the rear of the courthouse and there found the men attempting to enter the jail. Larson said the men carried ropes and were using ladders which were being used to paint the building.

After the group was dispersed Sheriff Oscar Olson and the police decided to bring the negro to Minneapolis.

They said Sunday night he will be arraigned here and probably not returned to Anoka for several days, if at all.

ST. CLOUD, MINN.
TIMES
SEP 7 1931

NEGRO LYNCHING PLOT IS FOILED

Anoka Sheriff Outwits Mob; Prisoner Taken to Cell in Minneapolis.

Anoka, Minn., Sept. 7(UP)—Feeling still ran high today after an attempt to lynch a negro youth was thwarted by Jailer John Larson who spirited the youth away from a mob of more than score.

The suspect gave the name of Earnest McGuire, 22. He was arrested by Chief of Police John Melberg Sunday after it was claimed he had molested an eight year old girl.

Small groups of citizens began gathering across the street from the jail when word spread that the negro was captured. Several attempted attacks on young women lately had resulted in wild goose chases by posses and sheriff's deputies.

Larson was approached by two men shortly afterward and asked to help in an accident. Larson drove away from the station but becoming suspicious he returned through an alley. He found the rapidly forming mob trying to scale a rear wall of the jail.

The suspect was taken to Minneapolis for safe-keeping.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
TRIBUNE
SEP 7 1931

ANOKA BLOCKS LYNCHING MOVE

Police Transfer Negro to Minneapolis Jail After Hanging Attempt.

A young Negro, arrested at Anoka on a charge of mistreating an eight-year-old girl, was removed to the Hennepin county jail Sunday after an attempt had been made to lynch him Saturday evening.

More than 20 men tried to make forcible entry to the Anoka jail after luring John Larson, jailer, away by reporting an automobile accident. Larson returned to find the lynching party placing ladders against the walls of the jail to get at windows where an entry could be made.

After the group had been dispersed, Sheriff Oscar Olson and police decided to bring the Negro to Minneapolis for arraignment. He will not be returned to Anoka for several days if at all.

The lynching party is said to have formed shortly after news of the Negro's arrest had spread.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
EVE. TRIBUNE
SEP 7 1931

LYNCHING ATTEMPT IS BALKED AT ANOKA

A young Negro, arrested at Anoka on a charge of mistreating an eight-year-old girl, was removed to the Hennepin county jail Sunday after an attempt had been made to lynch him Saturday evening.

More than 20 men tried to make forcible entry to the Anoka jail after luring John Larson, jailer, away by reporting an automobile accident. Larson returned to find the lynching party placing ladders against the walls of the jail to get at windows where an entry could be made.

After the group had been dispersed, Sheriff Oscar Olson and police decided to bring the Negro to Minneapolis for arraignment. He will not be returned to Anoka for several days.

The lynching party is said to have formed shortly after news of the Negro's arrest had spread.

ST. PAUL, MINN.
NEWS
SEP 7 1931

Anoka Jailer Thwarts Bent On Lynching

Feeling still ran high today after an attempt to lynch a negro youth was thwarted by Jailer John Larson of Anoka who spirited the youth away from a mob of more than a score.

The suspect gave the name of Ernest McGuire, 22. He was arrested by Chief of Police John Melberg Sunday after it was claimed he had molested an 8-year-old girl.

Small groups of citizens began gathering across the street from the Anoka jail when word spread that the negro was captured. Several attempted attacks on young women lately had resulted in wild goose chases by posses and sheriff's deputies.

Larson was approached by two men shortly afterward and asked to help in an accident. Larson drove away from the station but becoming suspicious he returned through an alley. He found the rapidly forming mob trying to scale a rear wall of the jail.

The suspect was taken to Minneapolis for safe-keeping.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
JOURNAL
SEP 7 1931

Jailer Thwarts Anoka Lynching

A young Negro garag[redacted]c who was theratened with lynching two hours after his arrest on a charge of mistreating an 8-year-old child, will be arraigned in Anoka Municipal Court tomorrow, county officials siad today.

The man, who gave the name of Ernest McGuire, is confined in the Minneapolis jail, following the attempt of 20 Anoka men to gain access to the jail after luring John Larson, jailer, away with the report of an automobile accident.

Shortly after dusk Sunday, two men came to the jail and told the jailer there had been an accident on the Missippi river bridge. Larson immediately got in the patrol car and started for the bridge. Reconsidering as he drove along, the jailer decided to turn back. He drove through an alley at the rear of the municipal building and found about 20 men with ropes and ladders trying to obtain entrance.

He dispersed the crowd and notified county officials, who decided to take McGuire to Minneapolis for safe keeping.

Police Chief John Melberg of Anoka today said no attempt would be made to arrest members of the mob because Larson failed to identify anyone.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Louisiana

3433

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 19 1931

WOUNDED NEGRO DIES, CHEATING MOB OF 1,500

End Comes as Shreveport (La.) Police Hold Off Crowd Pushing Into Hospital.

SHREVEPORT, La., Jan. 18 (AP).—Leman McDaniel, a Negro who was wounded last night in a police raid that cost the lives of two officers, died at 11:45 o'clock tonight in a charity hospital as a crowd estimated at 1,500 persons milled about the hospital and swarmed into the corridors.

Dr. E. L. Sanderson, superintendent of the hospital, the corridors of which were guarded by every available policeman and deputy sheriff, was present when the Negro died, peritonitis having developed in one of his wounds.

The superintendent immediately called three of the crowd into the third-floor room and satisfied them that the Negro was dead. They and others in the group on that floor retreated to the ground floor, where several hundred of the mob were held back by officers who jammed the narrow stairway leading to the Negro ward.

Before McDaniel's death unsuccessful appeals had been made by Major J. G. Palmer, Sheriff Tom Hughes and Captain Harry Stahl of the National Guard here, but the crowd, which had begun gathering in the early evening refused to disperse.

NEGRO IS REMOVED FOR SAFE KEEPING

Advertiser

Officers Claim Prisoner Admitted Slaying Lunch-Room Operator

1-17-31

Montgomery Ala.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. [illegible]—(AP)—Fearing mob violence at the hands of aroused Bogalusa citizens, officers today brought Jim Brown, 20, negro, to the Parish Prison here for safe keeping after they said they had secured a confession from Brown that he shot and killed C. W. Moss, 53-year-old lunchroom operator in an attempted holdup in Bogalusa. The negro was quoted by prison authorities here as stating that he had staged the holdup because he was hungry and without food, and that he had shot Moss when the latter resisted. One of the bullets pierced Moss's heart and he was found dead in a small park near the Bogalusa depot.

A hat found near Moss's body led officers to Brown's home where a mob quickly formed as officers parleyed with the negro. When cries of "lynch him" were raised, Chief of Police T. A. Magee of Bogalusa took the negro out of town. He will be held in the Parish Prison here for the present.

N.Y. HERALD

JAN 29 1931

A Prevented Lynching

Decisive Action of a Wounded Negro Against the Mob

To the New York Herald Tribune:

Wounded Negro beats Louisiana mob of 1,500 whites, who were hell-bent on lynching him. The Negro had killed two of three policemen who were raiding his grocery store. From "between the lines" of the Southern newspaper that reports the affair, we can judge that the raid was unjustified and unlawful. The three white men did not raid the place as officers of the law, but dressed themselves up in rags and blacked their faces, and went to raid the black man's store as if they were Negro hoodlums. He undoubtedly took them for Negro hoodlums, and defended his place of business, killing two of them and getting wounded himself.

He was taken to a hospital, for attention from white doctors and nurses. A mob of 1,500 "brave" men invaded the hospital wards to get this wounded Negro, who had done nothing but defend his place of business against an attack by Negro hoodlums (so far as he could see) who were intent on destroying his property. Of course, the white officers had said that they "suspected" him of harboring a gambling business somewhere in his store. They do not report that any evidence justifying their suspicions was found. It was, therefore, really in the nature of an accident that a Negro proprietor should kill foolish officers who were passing for vandal hoodlums of the Negro race. But the mob did not care if it were an accident. They were going into the hospital to get the Negro—and the Negro beat the mob and averted a lynching and burning, all by his lone self; before the mob could reach the hospital ward in which the Negro was confined for treatment, the Negro died!

We do not know whether the white doctors and nurses had any hand in this death of the Negro. They reported that "peritonitis" had done it. We do not know what the hospital staff had to do with the peritonitis. But this we know: In a trouble of this kind, in a place of this kind, a Negro of this kind in a hospital of this kind, with doctors and nurses of this kind, has about one chance to live against one hundred chances to die.

WILLIAM PICKENS.

New York, Jan. 27. 1931.

Negro Sought By Mob For Slaying Arrested

Advertiser

8-28-31

BATON ROUGE, LA., Aug. 27.—(AP)—Emanuel Jackson, negro sought yesterday by an Amite County, Miss., mob for the fatal shooting of a prominent planter, was brought here tonight for safe keeping after his arrest in East Felicana Parish, just over the State line.

Montgomery Ala.

The negro was brought here by Deputy Sheriff E. T. Harvey, of Liberty, Miss., and Deputy Sheriff Jack Morrison, of East Felicana, and was reported by those officers to have made a complete signed confession that he killed S. Bramlett Bates, planter, in an altercation at a negro woman's cabin.

Jackson in the confession imputed to him said he shot Bates with a small caliber pistol when the planter abused and struck him.

The negro is being held as a fugitive, and Deputy Harvey said he would be charged with murder.

Lynchings - 1931
Prevented

Louisiana

3434

LYNCH MOB THWARTED DRIVE OUT NEGROES

Herald [illegible]

DENHAM SPRINGS, La., Aug. 19. —Armed bands of white hoodlums, who had earlier been thwarted in their attempt to seize Ellis Smith, held by the polic on a charge of attempted rape of a young white woman, terrorized the Negro district of Livingston Parrish Sunday night, driving more than three hundred colored families from their homes to seek refuge in the swamps and forests.

8-29-31

Smith was arrested as a suspect after Mrs. Maribelle Hatchell had complained to the police that a colored man had entered her home while her husband was away and attempted to rape her. He was lodged in the local jail, but as a mob formed to break the jail and lynch him, two deputy sheriffs rushed him in a car to the state prison at Baton Rouge before the lynchers could break into the jail.

Baltimore [illegible]

The mob, numbering more than a thousand, then determined to wreak its vengeance upon all of the Negro families of the parrish, and armed with shot guns, torches, sticks bricks and whips, marched to the colored settlement. Warning of their approach had preceeded them, and all but a few ofthe colored families had escaped to the swamps. The stragglers were beaten by the mob, and several houses were put on fire. One of the leaders of the mob stopped the burning o fthe houses because most of them belonged to the saw mill companies by whom most of the colored men are employed.

Drive Negroes Out of Denham Springs

8-22-31

DENHAM SPRINGS, La.—Following an alleged attack on a white woman there and alleged confession of a Negro worker (press admits the confession was wrung from him). The sheriff's posse has ordered all Negroes to leave town or suffer the consequences. All have left. The officers report they had rescued the prisoner Ellis Smith, 25, from lynch mobs twice. Story sounds like frame-up 100 per cent. It is claimed he attacked this woman or tried to and also fought off her aged father, daughter and baby at the same time.

[illegible]

THWARTED IN LYNCH EFFORT, MOB CHASES NEGROES FROM HOME

8-22-31

Chicago [illegible]

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Lynchings-1931
6
Presented

Maryland

3438

GOVERNOR WILL "WASH HANDS" IN MURDER CASE

NOV 14 1931

Defense Lawyer and I. L. D. Investigator Mobbed.

Afro-American

TO CARRY CASE TO APPEALS COURT

~~Baltimore, Md.~~

Attorney Says Every Step to Secure Rights Will Be Taken

Bernard Ades, attorney for Yuel Lee (Orphan Jones) informed the AFRO-AMERICAN, Friday morning, that he would appear in Snow Hill Court if, and when, his client was placed on trial despite the refusal of Governor Ritchie to protect him, and despite the intimation on the part of Mayor Byrd, of Snow Hill, that he would be "tended to" if he came.

Mr. Ades states that not only would his organization exercise its constitutional rights to defend the accused man, but every possible means would be taken to bring out every fact of third degree methods, mob intimidation, official collusion that had taken place.

Warden Martin told the AFRO, Friday, that Lee had not been taken to Snow Hill for trial.

At 12:00 noon, Friday, it was learned that a change of venue from Snow Hill to Cambridge had been granted Lee.

SNOW HILL, Md.—With a mob of 500 white men waiting the arrival of Yuel Lee (Orphan Jones), accused slayer of a white family of four, and his attorney, Bernard Ades, white, the entire Eastern Shore awoke expectant, Friday morning, as the time for the placing of the 60-year-old man on trial here approached.

For the third time [illegible] mob, which formed shortly after the killing, went into operation Wednesday morning, this time wreacking its vengeance on Bernard Ades, white, attorney for the 60-year-old man, and Miss Helen Hayes, white, both representatives of the International Labor Defense, and severely beat them before Judge Joseph Bailey and deputies could rush them to the jail for protection.

Told to Leave

The attorney and Miss Hayes, together with Oscar Rabowsky, white, came to Snow Hill Wednesday to file a petition asking a change of venue for the accused man. Shortly after filing the petition they attempted to leave the court house, where more than five hundred white men had gathered in anticipation of Lee being brought here for trial.

As they entered a restaurant to get some breakfast, a number of the whites attacked them. It was then that the judge and a number of officials surrounded them. Notwithstanding the presence of the judge the whites seized the three International Labor Defense representatives and mobbed them severely. Rabowsky was beaten and cut about the head, face and body, while Miss Hayes and Ades were beaten.

When inside the jail, according to Ades, Judge Bailey and deputies told them that they should leave Snow Hill at once. While in the restaurant members of the mob gave them twenty minutes to leave the town.

Is Arrested

Officials arrested Miss Hayes and placed her under $500 bail on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. They stated that they found a loaded pistol in her purse. Efforts of THE AFRO-AMERICAN to reach Miss Hayes Thursday failed as she had gone to New York to report the matter to the national office of the Defense organization.

Officials also stated that they had found a pistol in the automobile of Mr. Ades, and as a result his car is being held by deputies here. "It is probable," Louis Berger, secretary of the Baltimore branch of the International Labor Defense, told The Afro-American, "that Mr. Ades had a revolver in his car although the attorney did not confirm this. It may also be possible," said Mr. Berger, "that the gun was planted there as also in the case of Miss Hayes.

Is Sinister

Berger pointed out the inaction of the Eastern Shore whites as well as the town and State officials sworn to uphold the law, in that they have not made one arrest of the armed mobs of whites who have roamed about the Shore for the past three weeks since the crime was committed. He also told The Afro-American that the action of the Governor in "bowing to the will of the mob" amounted to a complete breakdown of constituted authority.

"If Lee is guilty," he said, "what was there to fear in granting him a fair and impartial trial. There should also be no objection to him exercising his constitutional authority of employing his own attorney. No one could honestly say, in view of what has happened for the past three weeks on the Eastern Shore, that Lee stands any chance of getting an impartial trial there. The fact is he stands little chance of getting a trial at all."

Will Fight to End

"The International Defense will not be intimidated by the mob," he says. "The question is not merely the matter of justice to Yuel Lee, but one of world wide justice to the working masses." Mr. Berger expressed surprise that colored leaders have not been more active in the matter.

Ritchie Won't Act

Governor Albert Ritchie told representatives of the press late Thursday that he saw no reason why he should

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LAWYER WHO DEFENDS NEGRO BEATEN BY MOB

NOV 14 1931

Snow Hill, Md., Nov. 11.—(By A. N. P.)—Not in Mississippi, not in Georgia, but in the proud state of the Cavaliers, Maryland, whose citizens lift their brows disparingly when their state is referred to as a part of the South, a mob of the residents of this county, Worcester, attacked Wednesday, not a Negro prisoner, but a white lawyer who had volunteered to defend the Negro prisoner, and a white woman and a white man who accompanied the lawyer.

Reporter

Not once, but twice in a day full of excitement, did the mob vent its savage fury on the representative of the law, and only ceased when it had beaten the lawyer and his companions so seriously that they agreed to leave this town and never return.

The lawyer in the case is Bernard Ades, attorney for the International Liberty Defense League in Baltimore who had volunteered his services in behalf of a defenseless Negro prisoner.

His companions were, Helen Mays and Oscar R[illegible]owsky.

Birmingham, Ala.

The prisoner in whose behalf Ades appeared is Yuel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, who is accused of slaying a white farmer, Green K. Davis, his wife, and two daughters. Lee is alleged to have confessed. He is reported to have been mercilessly treated before the announcement of the alleged confession and since his incarceration there have been credible reports that the confession is bogus and that there is evidence pointing toward other guilty persons, white.

Ades appeared in Circuit court before Judge Joseph Bailey to argue for a change of venue in behalf of Lee on the grounds that too much race prejudice existed in Worcester county for Lee to get a fair trial.

The first attack of the mob occurred in the middle of the day. Ades and the woman were accosted roughly by leaders of the mob and ordered to leave town. They were rescued by officials of the sheriff's office and taken to the courthouse. It was then discovered that the woman was armed. She said that she had been employed to protect Ades. Despite the fact that their lives were in jeopardy, charges were brought against the woman by a group of citizens, led by the mayor, of carrying a deadly weapon. She appeared in court and asked for a jury trial. Bail of $500 was demanded which Ades paid.

The second attack was made upon Ades, Miss Mays and Rabowsky when the three of them were leaving the afternoon session of court. The mob members brushed aside the sheriff's deputies and city police, then proceeded to beat the lawyer and his companions. The judge of the court finally rescued the trio and took them to a physician for treatment.

The most tragic development of the day, however, happened later when the secretary of Liberty league, Louis Berger, asked Governor Albert Ritchie to dispatch troops here to protect the prisoner and his representatives. The governor, with amazing objectivity, declined to do so upon the assurance of the state's attorney of Worcester county, Godfrey Child, that protection would be given here.

Thus Maryland exhibits herself in the raw. A confession is allegedly beaten out of a prisoner. Volunteers, officers of the court, who appear to defend him, to see not that he is favored, but that the law is upheld, are beaten and chased out of town. Protection is requested from a higher authority. The higher authority, presidential aspirant, Gov. Ritchie yields to the assurance of the chief law enforcement officer of the county in which the outrage has occurred, and declines to give protection. Not Mississippi—Maryland.

NEW YORK SUN

NOV 4 1931

TWO SAVED FROM MOB

Volunteer Counsel in Maryland Slayings Is Warned.

SNOW HILL, Md., Nov. 4 (A. P.).—Bernard Ades, volunteer counsel for Yuel Lee, confessed Negro slayer of a Maryland farm family of four, and a woman who said she was Ades's protector, were rescued from a mob today after they had been ordered to leave town.

Ades, attorney for the International Labor Union, came here to ask a change of venue for Lee, contending that race prejudice on Maryland's Eastern Shore precluded a fair trial.

The threat against Ades and Helen Mays, his companion, was made as part of a crowd followed them into a lunchroom.

An unidentified member of the crowd ordered the pair to leave town "within ten minutes."

The lunch room proprietor declined to serve them and closed the doors of his place.

Ades and the woman were rescued by deputy sheriffs and taken to the sheriff's office. A loaded automatic pistol was found in the woman's handbag.

Lee now is in the Baltimore jail where he was taken for safekeeping.

NEW YORK TIMES

NOV 5 1931

MOB BEATS COUNSEL OF NEGRO SLAYER OF 4

Liberty Defense League Attorney and Two Aides Are Forced to Leave Snowhill, Md.

SNOWHILL, Md., Nov. 4 (AP).—A

Worcester County mob, thwarted in three attempts to seize Yuel Lee, confessed Negro slayer of a family of four, turned its wrath today upon Bernard Ades of Baltimore, attorney for the International Liberty Defense League and voluntary counsel for Lee.

Twice during the day Mr. Ades and two companions, one of them a woman "protector," were attacked by the mob. After the second attack, Mr. Ades and his companions left Snowhill, promising never to return.

The second and most serious demonstration came as Mr. Ades, with Helen Mays and Oscar Rabowsky, attempted to leave the court house as circuit court was adjourned. The mob attacked the trio and beat them severely before they were rescued by Judge Joseph Bailey.

Taken to the court house, the two were placed under protection. A loaded pistol was found in the woman's possession, and charges of carrying a deadly weapon were brought against her by a committee of citizens headed by Mayor J. O. Byrd of Snowhill. She was released in $500 bail furnished by Mr. Ades, whom she said she was hired to protect.

N. Y. EVENING POST

NOV 24 1931

MARYLAND MOB FOILED

EASTON, Md., Nov. 24 (AP).—George Davis, twenty-eight, a Negro, was rushed to the Baltimore city jail for safekeeping today just ahead of a mob of 300 Kent County residents which stormed the Talbot County jail here.

Davis was accused of attempting to attack Mrs. Elizabeth Lusby, twenty-five, wife of a farmer near Kennedysville. Sheriff John T. Vickers of Kent County brought the Negro here late last night when he was informed a mob was approaching the Chestertown jail. The Negro then was sent on to Baltimore.

A BRAVE WOMAN

12-7-31

Pittsburgh Pa.

Last week in Snow Hill, Maryland, a brave little woman, a mere girl of 22, held at bay a mob who threatened to lynch an attorney who was defending a Negro charged with murder. This woman used a gun to defy the mob and the mob receded. Now she is charged with carrying a concealed weapon by the irony of fate as such destiny is meted out in American civilization. No doubt the sentiment of her community is such that she may be ostracized by the people of her girlhood and home because she elected to let the law take its course rather than permit her town to be darkened by a cowardly lynching.

This woman defied, not only local sentiment, but largely, national sentiment and in many ways, world sentiment. This event reminds us of Jesus' solemn statement "In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'" Helen Mays of Snow Hill joins the ranks of overcomers who believe in the promise of Jesus. She may never get the public recognition she deserves as a defender of law and order and as a saviour of humanity but in this one act of bravery and kindness she has joined the ranks of the countrys' heroines and deserves a niche in the hall of fame alongside of Mollie Pitcher and Barbara Fritchie.

NEW YORK SUN

NOV 24 1931

MARYLAND NEGRO RESCUED FROM MOB

Is Accused of Attack on Wife of Farmer.

EASTON, Md., Nov. 24 (A. P.).—George Davis, a twenty-eight-year-old Negro, was rushed to the Baltimore City jail for safe keeping today, just ahead of a mob of 300 Kent county men which stormed the Talbot county jail here seeking him.

Davis, accused of attempting to assault Mrs. Edgar Lusby, 25, wife of a Kent county farmer near Kennedysville, on Saturday, was captured yesterday in Wilmington, Del. and taken to the Kent jail at Chestertown.

Sheriff John T. Vickers of Kent county, brought the Negro here late last night when he was informed a mob was approaching the Chestertown jail. State's Attorney Stephen R. Collins of Kent, succeeded in quieting the crowd with the assertion the Negro was not in Chesterton.

The leaders of the mob learned of Davis' removal to the jail here, however, and drove the thirty miles to Easton. Sheriff A. Ray Carroll sent the Negro to Baltimore under a guard of two deputies, circling the route taken by the Kent mob.

Davis, Mrs. Lusby said, attempted the attack early Saturday morning while her husband was absent from the house. The Negro formerly had been employed by Lusby. She repulsed his attack, she told Sheriff Vickers, but was injured in the struggle.

A posse scoured the territory around Kennedysville after the attack, but Davis escaped to Wilmington where he was arrested yesterday.

BRONX HOME NEWS

NOV 25 1931

Lynching Mob Easily Outwitted

George Davis, 28, colored, who is accused of attacking Mrs. Elizabeth Lusby, 25-year-old farmer's wife of Kent County, Md., is safe in Baltimore City Jail today. He was moved twice yesterday when blood-hungry mobs sought to vent their wrath on him. Sheriff Vickers removed Davis from Kent County jail long before the mob seeking him arrived there, and later he was taken from Talbot County Jail when the mob followed him there. Sheriff Carroll, of Talbot County, circled around the mob in taking the prisoner to Baltimore.

LAWYER FOR MD. MURDER SUSPECT BEATEN BY MOB; GOV. RITCHIE REFUSES HIM STATE PROTECTION

Whip 11-14-31

Chicago, Ill.

SNOW HILL, Md., Nov. 11.—ANP—A change of venue was granted Yuel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, on the motion of his court-appointed counsel, F. Leonard Wailes, when his case was brought up for trial in the Worchester County Circuit court Friday before Judge Joseph Bailey and Robert F. Duer.

The hearing will now be held in Dorchester county, adjoining Worchester county. Dorchester county officials state that the case will probably not be called before the third week of the term because of the heavy trial docket ready for disposal.

Thursday the air was charged with the possibilities incident to the mobbing of Bernard Ades, counsel for Lee, Oscar Rabowsky, his secretary, and Helen Mays, his guard, who were beaten and driven from this town Wednesday. Ades is an attorney retained by the International Labor Defense League, with headquarters in Baltimore, Louis Berger is the secretary.

After the expulsion of the league's representatives, Berger appealed to Gov. Ritchie for protection, but the governor declined to use his authority in any way, yielding to the assurance of Worchester county officials that they had everything under control. However, they repeated their warning that Ades had better not come back to town. Judge Bailey insisted that a lawyer like Ades, representing the organization he does, has no standing in his court.

However, on Saturday, after the change of venue had been granted, Ades forced the authorities to let him to interview Lee, after he had threatened to file habaes corpus petition.

Ades informed reporters that Lee still retains him as attorney and that he will appeal to the state court of appeals this week to have the case brought to the western shore of the state for trial.

Lee, 60 years old, is held as the murderer of Green Davis, a white farmer, his wife, and his two daughters. Revenge is said to have been the motive, Lee having worked for Davis and been discharged.

Liberty League Attorney, Defending Negro Slayer, Twice Attacked By Mob

11-5-31

SNOW HILL, MD., Nov. 4.—(AP)—A Worcester County mob, thwarted in three attempts to gain possession of Yuel Lee, confessed negro slayer of a family of four, today turned its wrath on Benard Ades, attorney for the International Liberty League, and voluntary counsel for Lee.

Twice during the day, Ades, with two companions, one of them a woman, was attacked by the mob. After the second attack Ades and his companions, badly beaten, left Snow Hill, promising never to return.

A fully loaded automatic pistol was found in the woman's possession and charges of carrying a deadly weapon were brought against her.

Arraigned before Magistrate Walter Price, she demanded a jury trial and was released on $500 bail furnished by Ades. She said she was hired to protect Ades..

EVADE MARYLAND MOB.

N. Y. Times

Officers Move Negro From Talbot County Jail to Baltimore.

Special to The New York Times.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 24.—A second Negro within a week, George Davis, 28, was secretly hurried to the Baltimore city jail early today to protect him from an armed mob of about 300 which surrounded the Talbot County jail at Chesterton.

Davis is accused of attacking Mrs. Elizabeth Lusby, the wife of a farmer at Kennedysville. 11-24-31

Following this new mob activity, the International Labor Defense League sent another telegram to Governor Ritchie, demanding that he "put a stop to the reign of terror in the great free State of Maryland."

"I know of no other State where the Governor is continually bothered by an organization of this kind, and I don't know what they expect me to do," the Governor said on receiving the telegram.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Maryland

3439

STANDARD UNION
B'klyn. N.Y.
OCT 13 1931

Mob Moves on Jail to Get Negro Held in Death of Four

2,000 Maryland Farmers Wildly Excited—Victims Slain With Axe

SNOW HILL, Md., Oct. 13 (UP).—A mob of enraged farmers today marched on Snow Hill, reported bent on lynching Orphan Jones, 60-year-old [redacted] held in connection with the axe [redacted] entire Berlin family, four in number.

The mob formed at Berlin after Jones had resisted an all-night questioning by county police and Baltimore detectives. The Negro was removed to the jail at Snow Hill, and the mob followed. A detail of State police aided by eight deputies and local constables held the crowd temporarily in check. Reports estimated the mob as high as 2,000 persons.

Jones is being questioned in connection with the death Sunday of Green Davis, 55, a farmer; his wife, Ivy S. Davis, 48 and his two daughters Elizabeth, 15, and Mary Lee, 13.

The bodies were found in bed, their heads battered by blows from an axe, their clothing saturated with kerosene. Partly burned kerosene-soaked rags were found on the floor, indicating the murderer had attempted to destroy evidence of the crime.

Jones had been employed by Davis but recently was discharged. Police said several rings and a pocketbook, property of the Davises, were found in his possession.

The Wicomico County Grand Jury was just about to conclude its monthly session. It remained sitting and speedy action was promised.

NEGRO CONFESSES TO FOUR KILLINGS

Telegraph
10-14-31

Farm Laborer Describes Slaughter in Maryland

Macon, Ga.

IS REMOVED TO BALTIMORE

SNOWHILL, Md., Oct. 13 (AP)—Orphan Jones, 60-year-old Negro farm laborer, today confessed he killed Greene Davis, Berlin truck farmer, his wife and two daughters. After the confession, Jones immediately was whisked under heavy guard from the county jail here to Baltimore for safe keeping.

Jones' confession followed a night and a day of grilling by Worcester county and Baltimore City police. The questioning had continued almost without respite since Jones' arrest last night, three hours after the bodies of the Davis family had been found in their beds, shot and beaten to death.

State's Attorney Godfrey Child issued a signed statement in which he told of the confession. The case will be presented to the grand jury, probably tomorrow, Child said, and will be tried next week during the present term of court.

When the confession was announced, a crowd of several hundred persons which had congregated about the jail during the day assumed a threatening attitude, and officers removed the prisoner to Baltimore.

Removed Under Guard

Flanked by a cordon of police, Jones was removed from the jail, placed in a waiting automobile, and the caravan started for Baltimore. No move was made by the crowd as it watched the transfer.

Deputy Sheriff Randall Purnell recounted the Negro's story as told in his signed statement.

Jones, he said, went to the Davis home late Saturday night in an intoxicated condition bent upon robbery. He had been dicharged by the farmer several days before following an altercation over money, and had jokingly threatened to "get even," Purnell said the Negro admitted.

Clubs Entire Family

When he got into the house he found Davis' shotgun, armed himself with it and went to the second floor. There, Purnell said the Negro confessed, his resentment at being discharged and need of money "drove me crazy."

He fired first into the bodies of Davis, 55, and his wife, Iva, 38, the confession said. Then he made his way to the room where the girls were still in bed, and fired again.

The shotgun jammed, he said, and he then fired with a pistol of his own.

After he had shot Elizabeth, 15, and Mary Lee, 13, he clubbed the entire family with the shotgun, pistol, and an axe he found in the house, Purnell said the confession declared.

He then ransacked the house, saturated the bodies and beds with kerosene oil, and set fire to the bed in the children's room, but it failed to burn after he left the place.

FOUR OF FAMILY VICTIMS OF FIEND

Appeal
10-13-31

Hacked Bodies of Farmer, Wife and Two Daughters Found in Home

Memphis Tenn.

HUNT NEGRO FARM HAND

Neighbors Discover Gruesome Tragedy by Battering Down Door of Home When Silence Arouses Suspicion.

By The Associated Press.

BERLIN, Md., Oct. 17.—Four persons, a farmer, his wife and their two daughters, were found dead in their beds late today, their heads battered in by a blunt instrument. Neighbors, who operate poultry farms adjoining and had missed them since last Saturday night, broke down the door of the home and made the discovery.

The dead are Green Davis, 55, his wife, Iva, 48, and their children, Elizabeth, 15, and Mary Lee, 13. The older girl was a junior in the Berlin high school and the younger a freshman.

The Davis farm house is located two and a half mils east of Berlin on the Ocean City highway at a place known as Taylorville.

Believed Hacked to Death.

The man and his wife were found dead in one bed on the second floor of the home and the two girls in another bed on the same floor. The four, officers believed, had been hacked to death.

Police officers from Berlin immediately locked the house and notified Sheriff Wilmer S. Turnell and State's Attorney Godfrey Child and arrangements were made for an inquest late tonight.

A crowd of more than 2,000 gathered at the farmhouse, but officers held them in check as the investigation got under way.

Neighbors said that Davis had an argument last Saturday with a negro farm hand from North Carolina who had been working for three weeks and discharged the man. The negro has not been seen since.

The two farmers who made the discovery are Charles Johnson and S. E. Howell.

The shades in all the windows of the house were drawn, neighbors said, and several rooms had been ransacked. However, there was no trace of the weapon that had been used in the attack and nothing of value was known to have been taken.

The farmhouse is located in an isolated part of the county where communication is difficult.

Negro Saved from Lynchers in Maryland

Age
10-17-31

Snow Hill, Md.—A squad of Maryland police stood guard here Tuesday, October 13, over an aged while Snow Hill and all Worcester county seethed with anger over the ax murder of a Berlin farmer and his wife and two daughters.

New York, N.Y.

Orphan Jones, 60, the prisoner, was brought here under heavy guard after a mob of enraged farmers had formed in the little village of Berlin, shouting "Lynch him! string him up!" He was arrested in Ocean City, Md., Monday following discovery of the bodies of Green Davis, 55, his wife, Ivy, 48, and their daughters, Elizabeth, 15, and Mary Lee, 13.

He had worked for Davis but had been discharged. Rings and a pocketbook belonging to the family are said to have been found in his possession.

News Spread Fast

The entire Davis family was found in bed, their heads crushed with axe blows while they slept, their clothing saturated with kerosene. Partly burned rags on the floor indicated an effort to destroy the evidence.

Word of the outrage spread rapidly. Families are closely related here in the "lost provinces" of Maryland, and mob fury flared up overnight. A crowd of farmers estimated at 2,000 gathered in Berlin where Jones was found.

State police came to the aid of the local constables and deputies. The crowd grew more menacing. Finall ythe prisoner was spirited out of the jail and brought here by motor.

Then the mob dwindled away.

Jail Searched In Vain For Slayer Of Family

Advertiser
10-23-31

SNOW HILL, MD., Oct. 22.—(AP)—A large crowd of men and boys from points on the eastern shore assembled on the village green in front of the county jail here late today, muttering threats against Yuel Lee, alias Orphan Jones, negro, accused of murdering the Green Davis family of four Oct. 11. The negro, however, has been in the Baltimore city jail several days for safekeeping.

Montgomery

Warden Ernest Lee addressed the gathering. He estimated the crowd to number 300 and permitted a committee of seven to be chosen to make a tour of the jail as assurance the prisoner was not here.

The committee went through the small jail peering into every cell and available hiding place and reported back to the crowd that Lee was not confined there.

There was no attempt of violence and after the report of the committee was received the crowd began to break up.

NEW YORK
HERALD-TRIBUNE
OCT 14 1931

Negro, 60, Confesses He Killed 4 of Family That Employed Him

SNOW HILL, Md., Oct. 13 (UP).—Orphan Jones, sixty-year-old Negro, confessed today after sixteen hours of questioning that he slew the four members of a white family by which he had been employed. He was immediately sent with a heavily guarded motor convoy to Baltimore.

Threats of lynching caused authorities to bring Jones [redacted] today from Berlin, near the scene of the crime. A mob of 2,000 farmers had gathered around the Berlin jail. A squad of state police and deputy sheriffs prevented trouble. Excited groups later gathered around the county jail here and it was then decided to take Jones to Baltimore.

NEW YORK
GRAPHIC

OCT 13 [illegible]

Suspect in Ax Murder of 4 Saved From Lynch Mob

Snow Hill, Md., Oct. 13 (UP).—A squad of Maryland police stood guard here today over an aged Negro while Snow Hill and all Worcester county seethed with anger over the ax murder of a Berlin farmer and his wife and two daughters.

Orphan Jones, 60, the prisoner, was brought here under heavy guard after a mob of enraged farmers had formed in the little village of Berlin, shouting "Lynch him! String him up!" eH was arrested in Ocean City, Md., yesterday following discovery of the bodies of Green Davis, 55, his wife Ivy, 48, and their daughters Elizabeth, 15, and Mary Lee, 13.

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State police came to the aid of the local constables and deputies. Finally the prisoner was spirited out of the jail and brought here by motor.

MOB BEATS COUNSEL OF NEGRO SLAYER OF 4

Liberty Defense League Attorney and Two Aides Are Forced to Leave Snowhill, Md.

N.Y. Times 11/5/31

SNOWHILL, Md., Nov. 4 (AP).—A Worcester County mob, thwarted in three attempts to seize Yuel Lee, confessed Negro [illegible] of a family of four, turned [illegible]rath today upon Bernard Ades of Baltimore, attorney for the International Liberty Defense League and voluntary counsel for Lee.

Twice during the day Mr. Ades and two companions, one of them a woman "protector," were attacked by the mob. After the second attack, Mr. Ades and his companions left Snowhill, promising never to return.

The second and most serious demonstration came as Mr. Ades, with Helen Mays and Oscar Rabowsky, attempted to leave the court house as Circuit court was adjourned. The mob attacked the trio and beat them severely before they were rescued by Judge Joseph Bailey.

Taken to the court house, the two were placed under protection. A loaded pistol was found in the woman's possession, and charges of carrying a deadly weapon were brought against her by a committee of citizens headed by Mayor J. O. Byrd of Snowhill. She was released in $500 bail furnished by Mr. Ades, whom she said she was hired to protect.

STATE FIGHTS ORPHAN JONES ON CHANGE OF VENUE

Daily Worker

Insists On Trial in a Lynch Atmosphere

11-3-31

BALTIMORE, Oct. 30.—The Circuit Court for Worcester County, where Orphan Jones, 60-year old farm hand, was indicted in a mur-

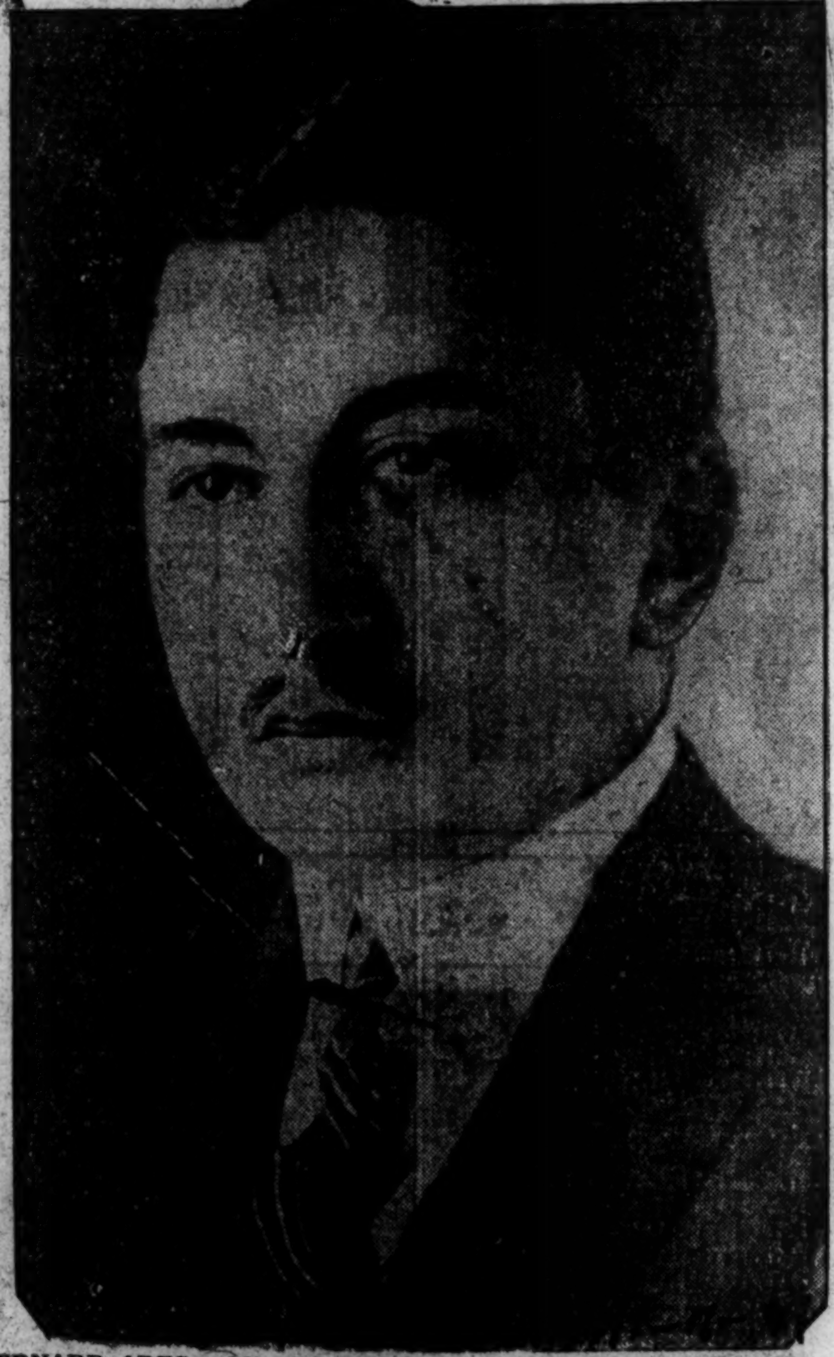
der frame-up, has adjourned until Nov. 4. New York, N.Y.

Jones has signed a contract with Bernard Ades, International Labor Defense attorney, making him sole attorney in the case. Attorney Upshur who was appointed by the court to "defend" Jones in an effort to exclude the militant class defense policy of the I. L. D. has requested that he be allowed to withdraw from the case. It is felt here that Upshaw's action in withdrawing is a result of the lynchin sentiment which has been whipped up in the community by theh boss press and Statae and Worcester County officials.

In spite of the several attempts made upon the life of Orphan Jones by mobs of rich farmers of the Eastern Shore, the State's Attorney is opposing theh motion of the I. L. D. attorney for a change of venue. The rich farmers who control the courts in Worcester County are determined to make an example of Orphan Jones in order to terrorize their Negro farm hands and maintain the system of forced labor which exists in the county. Jones is accused of murdering a rich farmer who robbed him of a day's wage at 10 cents an hour, and his family.

The International Labor Defense is vigorously pushing its fight for a change of venue, and is demanding that the case be tried in Baltimore. The I. L. D. is also demanding a fiury of Negro and white workers and is objecting to the panel already chosen on the grounds that Negroes were excluded. The I. L. D. will also challenge theh admissability of Jones' "confession" which was extored from him after 16 hours of the most revolting torture. The indictment of Jones will also be challenged on the grounds that he was denied the right to consult with the attorney furnishedd by the I. L. D. the Statae even resorting to the trick of putting ahead the date of indictment in order to defeat a corpus habeas sued out by the I. L. D. to force the State to produce him in court where he could consult with his counsel.

Refuses to Quit



BERNARD ADES, white, International Labor Defense attorney, who, with his two companions, one a woman, was set [illegible] beaten by a mob of 500 men when he appeared at the Snow Hill, Md., Courthouse to seek a change of venue for Orphan Jones. Nevertheless, he refused to withdraw from the case.

New York

LYNCHINGS-1931
PREVENTED

Michigan

3440

Safe From Michigan Mobs, 3 Begin Lifetime In Prison

Advertiser

ANN ARBOR, MICH., Aug. 14.—(AP)—Behind the walls of Michigan State Prison, safe from mob violence which threatened them last night, three torch slayers who killed and burned two young couples on a lonely road near here, completed the first day of their life sentences today.

Montgomery, Ala

Meanwhile officials arrested a fourth man for questioning, and continued grilling a young woman, said to be a friend of one of the killers. They said they had evidence tending to show the young woman was with the trip in the early hours of last Tuesday when the slayings occurred.

8-15-31

Howard Forwalter, 24, Ypsilanti, was arrested today. Authorities said David T. Blackstone, negro, one of the slayers, told them Fred Smith, another of the trio, obtained from Forwalter a pistol used in the slayings. Frank Oliver, 19-year-old Ypsilanti painter, is the third member of the group now in prison at Jackson, 38 miles from here.

Officials said they would question Forwalter in an attempt to uncover evidence which they believe will show that the three slayers participated in other robberies—possible killings—in this section.

Catherine Keller, 25-year-old niece of the late Judge Darwin Z. Curtis, of the Ypsilanti Municipal Court, remained in the county jail here. Prosecutors said she admitted being with Smith, whom they described as her sweetheart, Oliver and Blackstone last Monday night, but that she insisted she left the trio some three hours before the holdup which ended in the slaying of the two young couples, Thomas Wheatley, Harry Lore, Anna May Harrison and Vivian Gold. Officials said Blackstone's confession to the slayings did not agree with her statement.

Prosecutor Albert J. Rapp went to Jackson today to question the slayers further regarding Miss Keller's activities. He said he would not make a report of his findings until next week, when all the evidence is checked.

State authorities said the killers might start tonight or tomorrow for Marquette Prison, in the upper peninsula, where they will serve their life terms. The State Commissioner of Safety, Oscar Olander, said the men probably would be taken by train, and that State police would guard them en route.

After being rushed through a threatening mob at the Ann Arbor Courthouse last night after Judge George W. Sample had sentenced them to life terms on four counts each, the prisoners relaxed and today were reported to have talked freely of the slayings, described by police as one of the most cold-blooded in Michigan's history. Oliver expressed remorse for his part. Blackstone and Smith seemed interested principally in attempting to shift the blame to each other.

Each prisoner was placed in a separate "solitary" cell at the prison, with a guard posted nearby. Warden Harry Jackson said there had been no attempts on the part of the prisoners "at violence toward themselves," but added he was taking all precautions.

SPEEDY JUSTICE IS DEALT TO TRIO IN PYRE KILLINGS

Constitution

Negro and Two Whites Are Lodged in Prison Within Six Hours After Admitting Ghastly Slaying of Boys and Girls.

Atlanta, Ga

MOBS TRY TO TAKE MEN FROM OFFICERS

8-14-31

Tear Gas Is Used To Prevent Attack by Crowds Surrounding Courthouse During Trial.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Aug. 13.—(AP)—Two white youths and a large negro, all bearing evidence of rough handling by angry crowds, tonight received Michigan's severest penalty for the torch murder of two young couples on a lonely road last Tuesday.

The sentences, four life imprisonment terms for each man, not to run concurrently, were imposed 3 hours and 20 minutes after the trio had confessed the crime which aroused this quiet university community.

Ten minutes less than six hours after the confession the three men were safely behind the strong walls of Michigan state prison at Jackson, 38 miles away.

Judge George W. Sample, before passing sentence, heard two of the prisoners—Fred Smith, 22, and Frank Oliver, 19—tell how they, with their accomplice, David Blackstone, 33, negro, killed the young people, transported their bodies several miles in an automobile, and then set fire to the car and the bodies.

Robbery was the motive of the attack, the prisoners said, although Smith added that Blackstone assaulted one of the girls, Anna May Harrison. The two boys in the car—Harry Lore and Thomas Wheatley—recognized him, Smith said, and this brought death to them, Miss Harrison and Vivian Gold, who, like Miss Harrison, was a visitor in the community from Cleveland.

Ballistics Employed.

Two of the prisoners—Blackstone and Smith—were arrested today at Ypsilanti, traced through the pistol from which the ballistics experts said a bullet found in Lore's body was fired. Just as police, who were examining them at Ypsilanti city hall, announced their confession, Oliver was brought in.

Oliver's appearance was the signal for the first angry demonstration on the part of the big crowd which had collected around the city hall. Enough officers were present, however, to get him safely inside. Brought to the county jail here, a trip of about eight miles, the prisoners again found themselves in need of protection.

The crowd around the county jail was comparatively small, but the prisoners' clothes were torn and the negro's face was bruised before the officers could drag them inside.

A guard of state police was forn around the jail [illegible] by volunteers from the Ameri[illegible]egion post, while the three pri[illegible]s were arraigned inside before ,ustice of the Peace Jay Payne. They waived examination and pleaded guilty.

The officers used two automobiles for a short trip across the street to the courthouse, through the crowd.

The crowd surged at the cars, which were driven across the sidewalk and to the courthouse door. The menacing movement and angry shouts caused the guarding officers to use tear gas bombs, and the crowd fell back, only to press forward again during the trial.

Road Barricaded.

For more than an hour after the three men were sentenced, the officers made no move, and reports were current that barricades had been erected by mobs between here and Jackson.

The crowd outside the courthouse bided its time, and pressed forward again when a heavily guarded touring car pulled out at 10:30 p. m., starting the 38-mile journey to Jackson. Tear gas bombs protected the men.

Judge Sample, after hearing the stories of Smith and Oliver, in sentencing them, declared that he did not wonder that the crowd was "howling for vengeance." He denounced the men as "fiends."

"If I were to express my feelings on this occasion, I feel I would be compelled to say that I feel like I am in the presence of fiends. I don't wonder that the crowd is howling for vengeance. If they had listened to this testimony that we have had to listen to to give these parties their rights under the laws of the state I am afraid they would not be as civil as they are.

"There is a law of civilization that we must not indulge. The law must take its course. The people of the state of Michigan have declared that the penalty for this crime is life imprisonment."

"We all know that it doesn't make the penalty severe enough in this case," Judge Sample continued, "but if the law, as it is, is administered promptly and properly, that is all that we can ask. We are here to administer the law as it is, and all good citizens will abide by it. How human beings could act as you three have acted goes beyond me. I can't imagine it. The testimony made me heartsick—that our highways and our places of pleasure should have to be infested by such worms.

"Society has no place for them. It never can. If they should live 1,000 years they would not be fit to come back. I put them all on an equal basis. There might be something to say for Frank Oliver—but he associated himself with these men. Sometimes I feel discouraged. This young Smith has been before me for years, and prominent citizens of Ypsilanti have tried to do something for him, to show him what was right and what was wrong. Supervisors and other good citizens have tried to lead him aright and I can't help believe that if it wasn't for him this crime would not have been committed.

"The others should not be misled by that statement. They are old enough to know better. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything further, and I proceed to the sentence.

"It is the judgment of the court and it is so ordered that these [illegible] pondents in each of four cases for the murder of each of the four persons be committed to that branch of the Michigan state prison known as the Marquette branch for and during their natural lives in each case, and the sentences are not to run concurrently. The court wants to make doubly sure that they are never again to menace society.

"The sheriff's department is authorized to remove them to Jackson prison until they can be removed to Marquette.

"I wish to commend the sheriff, Harry Bennett (the Ford Motor Company police chief), and his men, the state police and others. I want to commend you all for bringing to justice three fiends in human form so quickly."

Parole Impossible.

The wording of the sentences practically makes parole impossible.

Smith and Oliver testified willingly at the trial, but Blackstone was not placed on the stand.

Smith testified he met Frank Oliver and Blackstone at a home in Ypsilanti and that he had "got disorderly on some hootch and did not know what I was about."

After seeing the two couples in Peninsular Grove, a "lovers' lane," Blackstone, Smith said, suggested "sticking them up."

"These boys identified me and so we took them out on Tuttle Hill road and struck them," Smith said.

"Blackstone had a gun and he shot into them. I ain't sure which ones he hit, because I stood along the side. Then we took them out of the car and hit them on the head with stones. We then took them down the County Line road and set fire to them. I put gasoline on the footboards and one of the boys lit a handkerchief and threw it in the car.

"Four shots were fired. I don't know which ones they hit. Two of them were dead. I don't know which two," Smith said.

"While you were driving from Tuttle Hill to the County Line road did any of the victims come to?" questioned Prosecutor Albert Rapp, and Smith replied, "One of the girls did," and added that one of his companions hit her with a wrench.

Oliver corroborated the story of the meeting and of Blackstone's suggestion for a robbery, and that they went to the grove.

Held Up at Midnight.

"We waited there until 12 o'clock," he said. "We drove up and around there. Blackstone jumped out of the car. They left me sitting in my car and they went to Wheatley's car and held them up."

The lights of the young people's car were off when they reached the grove, but as Smith drove up the lights were turned on, Oliver said. Both Blackstone and Smith left the car.

The girls remonstrated with the two holdup men, Oliver said, and his two companions told him "they were going to take them out in the country so we would not be reported."

The three then got into the victims' car and were in the front seat while the two couples were in the rear seat, he said.

The car proceeded to Tuttle Hill. Blackstone and Oliver both had guns and held the guns on the four people, Oliver said. Miss Harrison got out of the car at Tuttle Hill at the order of Blackstone, but the Gold girl said "she would rather die."

Blackstone shot four times and Oliver did not shoot at all, according to his statements. After killing the four, the bodies were removed from the car and then replaced "carefully" after the slayers became "afraid it would be discovered," Oliver continued.

The party returned to Peninsular Grove, where Oliver again took his own car and followed the other two who had taken the victims' automobile, driving about for some time.

At one point, Blackstone stopped to obtain a shovel with which to bury the victims. "I was afraid to go and afraid to stay," Oliver said, and he later said he was not threatene

by either of his companions.

The plan, he intimated, was to bury them in a gravel pit, but finally the party continued to County Line road, where the car was ignited. Oliver admitted taking gasoline from the car and pouring it on the cushions and floor boards.

Blackstone set the car on fire after the windows had been closed. Blackstone assaulted one of the girls at Tuttle Hill and again at the place where the bodies were found burned, Oliver said, maintaining that neither he nor Smith attacked either girl.

"If the court please, I do not care to take any further testimony," Rapp said as Oliver left the stand. Blackstone, while interviewed in private by the judge along with the other two men, did not testify.

Torch Slayers, Jailed, Confess, Get Life Terms

Advertiser

Montgomery Ala

Two Men, One A Negro, Admit Fiendish Murder Of Four Boys And Girls

8-14-31

Already In Prison

Presiding Judge At Trial Deplores Fact Michigan Has No Death Penalty

ANN ARBOR, MICH., Aug. 13—(AP)—Two white youths and a large negro, all bearing evidence of rough handling by angry crowds, tonight received Michigan's severest penalty for the torch murder of two young couples on a lonely road last Tuesday.

The sentences for life imprisonment terms for each man, not to run concurrently, were imposed three hours and twenty minutes after the trio had confessed the crime which aroused this quiet university community.

Ten minutes less than six hours after the confession the three men were safely behind the strong walls of Michigan State Prison at Jackson, 38 miles away.

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Robbery Was Motive

Robbery was the motive of the attack, the prisoners said, although Smith added that Blackstone assaulted one of the girls, Anna May Harrison. The two boys in the car—Harry Lore and Thomas Wheatley—recognized him, Smith said, and this brought death to them, Miss Harrison, and Vivian Gold, who, like Miss Harrison, was a visitor in the community from Cleveland.

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Oliver's appearance was the signal for the first angry demonstration on the part of the big crowd which had collected around the city hall. Enough officers were present however to get him safely inside. Brought to the county jail here, a trip of about eight miles, the prisoners again found themselves in need of protection.

Crowd Attacks Prisoners.

The crowd around the county jail was comparatively small, but the prisoners' clothes were torn and the negro's face was bruised before the officers could drag them inside.

A guard of State police was formed around the jail, aided by volunteers from the American Legion Post, while the three prisoners were arraigned inside before Justice of the Peace Jay Payne. They waived examination and pleaded guilty.

The officers used two automobiles for a short trip across the street to the courthouse, through the crowd.

The crowd surged at the cars, which were driven across the sidewalk and to the court house door. The menacing movement and angry shouts caused the guarding officers to use tear bombs, and the crowd fell back, only to press forward again during the trial.

For more than an hour after the three men were sentenced, the officers made no move, and reports were current that barricades had been erected by mobs between here and Jackson, seat of the Michigan State Prison, to which the men were to be taken. The crowd outside the court house bided its time, and pressed forward again when a heavily guarded touring car pulled out at 10:30 p.m., starting the 38-mile journey to Jackson.

Tear Bombs Used

Tear bombs again protected the men.

Judge Sample, after hearing the stories of Smith and Oliver, in sentencing them declared that he did not wonder that the crowd was "howling for vengeance." He denounced the men as "fiends."

The sentences were for imprisonment in Marquette Branch Prison, in the upper peninsula of Michigan, but it was decided to take the prisoners to Jackson until arrangements could be made for the long trip. The wording of the sentences practically makes parole impossible.

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Blackstone Shot Into Children

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"We waited there until midnight Monday night," he said. "We drove up and around there. Blackstone jumped out of the car. They left me sitting in my car and they went to Wheatley's car and held them up."

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Held Guns On Victims

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Blackstone assaulted one of the girls at Tuttle Hill and again at the place where the bodies were found burned, Oliver said, maintaining that neither he nor Smith attacked either girl.

Blackstone shot four times and Oliver did not shoot at all, according to his statements. After killing the four, the bodies were removed from the car and then replaced "carefully" after the slayers became "afraid it would be discovered," Oliver continued.

The party returned to Peninsular Grove where Oliver again took his own car and followed the other two who had taken the victims' automobile, driving about for some time.

At one point, Blackstone stopped to obtain a shovel with which to bury the victims. "I was afraid to go and afraid to stay," Oliver said, and he later said he was not threatened by either of his companions.

Meant To Bury Bodies

The plan, he intimated, was to bury them in a gravel pit, but finally the party continued to County Line Road, where the car was ignited. Oliver admitted taking gasoline from the car and pouring it on the cushions and floor boards.

Blackstone set the car on fire after the windows had been closed.

"If the court please, I do not care to take any further testimony," Rapp said as Oliver left the stand. Blackstone, while interviewed in private by the judge along with the other two men, did not testify.

Mob Scenes Unprecedented

The mob scenes around the jail and courthouse here and those at the Ypsilanti City Hall were unprecedented in Michigan in the last 100 years.

Every available member of the State Police force, members of the Michigan National Guard Company of Ann Arbor, and volunteer guards were kept busy fighting off the crowds.

Preceded by officers who ruthlessly shoved the crowd aside and displayed firearms, the three men, handcuffed together were literally dragged into the jail on arrival here from Ypsilanti. The rush knocked down one of the guards, David Gartman, son-in-law of Sheriff Jacob Andres. He fell down the steps, breaking a leg.

In passing sentence, Judge Sample said:

"If I were to express my feelings on this occasion, I feel I would be compelled to say . . . . that I feel like I am in the presence of friends. I don't wonder that the crowd is howling for vengeance. If they had listened to this testimony that we have had to listen to to give these parties their rights under the laws of the State, I am afraid they would not be as civil as they are.

"There is a law of civilization that we must not indulge. The law must take its course. The people of the State of Michigan have declared that the penalty for this crime is life imprisonment."

Judge Deplores "Light" Penalty

"We all know that it doesn't make the penalty severe enough in this case," Judge Sample continued, "but if the law, as it is, is administered promptly and properly, that is all that we can ask. We are here to administer the law as it is and all good citizens will abide by it. How human beings could act as you three have acted goes beyond me. I can't imagine it. The testimony made me heartsick—that our highways and our places of pleasure should have to be infested by such worms.

"Society has no place for them. It never can. If they should live 1,000 years they would not be fit to come back. I put them all on an equal basis. There might be something to say for Frank Oliver—but he associated himself with these men. Some times I feel discouraged. This young Smith has been before me for years and prominent citizens of Ypsilanti have tried to do something for him to show him what was right and what was wrong. Supervisors and other good citizens have tried to lead him aright and I can't help believe that if it wasn't for him this crime would not have been committed.

"The others should not be misled by that statement. They are old enough to know better. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything further and I proceed to the sentence.

"It is the judgment of the court and it is so ordered that these three respondents in each of four cases for the murder of each of the four persons be committed to that branch of the Michigan State Prison known as the Marquette branch for and during their natural lives in each case, and the sentences are not to run concurrently.

"The Court wants to make doubly sure that they are never again to menace society.

"The Sheriff's Department is authorized to remove them to Jackson Prison until they can be removed to Marquette.

"I wish to commend the sheriff, Mr. Harry Bennett (the Ford Motor Company police chief), and his men, the State police and the others—I want to commend you all for bringing to justice three fiends in human form so quickly."

The final solution of the crime bore out in many details the theories of officers who started the investigation when the bodies were discovered.

Resistance Blamed

They thought from the first that "petting party bandits" were responsible and that resistance brought death to the quartet.

The fact that one of the killers was recognized also had been suspected.

The confessions fitted in exactly with clews developed during the investigation. Automobile tracks on the country road where the burning car was found had indicated the presence of another machanfe, and the later discovery of Miss chine, and the later discovery of Miss theory that the bodies were hauled about before they were burned.

One detail remained to be accounted for. Investigators had attached considerable importance to the fact that the four young people had been seen in Milan, Mich., with another man about two hours before the bodies were found. This man was widely sought, and was not accounted for in the investigation.

The men who confessed were the second group of suspects given severe grillings by officers. The others, Lawrence and Paul Keene, recluse brothers, were arrested soon after the crime, and insisted throughout that they were innocent. They still were held tonight, officials intending to charge them with a liquor law violation.

The burning car was left on a road which is the boundary line between Washtenaw County, of which Ann Arbor is the county seat, and Wayne County, in which is the city of Detroit. Both counties were represented in the investigation, which yesterday was ordered placed in the hands of Harry S. Toy, Wayne prosecutor. The confessions, however, revealed that the crime was committed in Washtenaw Countv.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Mississippi.

3435

Troops To Guard Negro During Trial For Murder

Advertiser

JACKSON, MISS., June 6.—(AP)—One hundred national guardsmen, fully armed and equipped, have been ordered to Water Valley Tuesday for the trial of Sam Whitaker, 19-year-old negro, who is charged with the slaying of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bwanger. 6-7-31

Brig. Gen. J. M. Hairston, adjutant general, will be in direct command of the troops and will issue all orders verbally. Movement of the troops will be guarded in secrecy until the negro who is held in an unannounced jail in the State, is brought into the Yalobusha County Circuit Court room next week.

Montgomery Ala

The order for the troops was issued today by Gov. Theodore G. Bilbo upon request of Sheriff Doyle of Yalobusha County for assistance in preserving order during the trial.

SHERIFF STOPS MOBBISTS BENT ON LYNCHING

Meridian, Miss.—(ANP)—It was an angry, but disappointed group of white men, who stormed the Clarke County jail in quest of Walter Johnson, charged with attacking a white man near Enterprise, only to find their prey gone, Tuesday night.

The white man was shot and robbed and thrown from a train early in the week. Johnson, who hails from Trenton, N. J., was arrested and the report was spread that he had confessed. Tuesday night the mob gathered and went to the Clarke County jail. The jailer was over-powered and the jail searched from top to bottom by the men bent upon lynching the alleged assailiant. 8-29-31

Sheriff W. Z. West of Clarke County, however, had anticipated such action and had brought the prisoner to the jail here for safe-keeping. He returned to Clarke County just in time to advise the leaders of the mob that the prisoner had been carried to another county and that they disperse. The mob took his advice and went their way. Houston,

That Johnson would have been lynched is a certainty had it not been for the precaution taken by the sheriff. A heavy guard has been placed around the Meridian jail to forestall any attempt to take the prisoner.

Boudie Joggers, the white man, is in the hospital at Enterprise and his condition has been pronounced as serious. He positively identified Johnson as his assailant.

SLAYER SPIRITED AWAY FROM MOB

8-27-31

Farmer Admits Killing Girl As She Played Bridge At Her Home.

Memphis, Tenn

OXFORD, Miss., Aug. 26.—Clifford Smith, 25, Lafayette County farmer, has confessed to Sheriff Ike Roberts that he killed Miss Cubelle Hale, pretty divorcee, at her home in the Philadelphia community, 18 miles northeast of Oxford late last night. Sheriff Roberts refused to reveal the name of the jail to which he took Smith after placing him in the Lafayette County jail here for a brief time.

Smith, whose wife is visiting in Alabama, told the sheriff that his sole reason for killing Miss Hale was her insistence that he run away with her. The story is discounted by officers, however, who were informed in the Philadelphia community that Smith was drinking heavily during the morning at the Philadelphia voting precinct and had gone to Miss Hale's home during the afternoon. Jealousy, according to the report, is the cause.

Miss Hale and Mrs. Smith were intimate friends, it is reported, and looked very much alike. The Smiths had gone frequently to the home of the Hales to play bridge and Miss Hale visited the Smiths from time to time.

Miss Nellie Bonds, who once lived in this county and later moved with her family to Memphis; Max Parks, Shirley Phillips and Clarence Pritchard, all of the Philadelphia community, had gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hale, parents of the slain girl, for an evening of bridge. Shirley Phillips, one of the four playing, arose from his seat and walked to the door to throw away a cigarette. At this moment a shotgun was fired through the window and the light was blown out. Miss Bonds, Parks, Phillips and Pritchard dropped to the floor and did not know any one was hurt until the lamp was lighted. Miss Hale, still seated in her chair, had received the load of shot in her neck and died instantly.

Miss Hale was buried at the Philadelphia cemetery this afternoon. She was once the wife of Frank Waite who now lives in Texas.

Sheriff Roberts stated that members of the Hale family asked him as soon as he reached their home to arrest Smith. Smith lived two miles from the Hales. The sheriff hurried Smith away from the scene as nearly 100 men with pistols and shotguns gathered at the Hale residence.

Smith denied at first that he owned a gun, but when it was found later he admitted to the killing. Smith, when arrested, was lying on his bed.

The load from the shotgun made a hole in the curtain at the Hale home as big as a dollar. Phillips, who had gone to flip away a cigarette, had been seated directly in line of the fire. Miss Hale had just reached for the deck of cards when she was shot.

SHERIFF FOILS MOB BY REMOVING NEGRO

Appeal

Jailer Overpowered By Mob; Assailant Admits Attack.

8-19-31

MERIDIAN, Miss., Aug. 18.—A mob of masked men overpowered the nightwatchman, took his keys and searched the Clarke County jail late last night at Quitman, in an effort to get Walter Johnson, Trenton, N. J., negro, jailed in connection with robbing, shooting and throwing Boudie A. Joggers, 21, from a New Orleans, Northeastern train near Enterprise.

Memphis, Tenn

The mob was foiled by Sheriff W. Z. West, who brought his prisoner to Meridian where he was placed in the Lauderdale County jail for safe keeping. After a thorough search of the jail and being unable to find the negro, the keys were returned to the nightwatchman. The mob dispersed.

The condition of Joggers, who is in the Mattie Hersee Hospital here, is considered serious. The negro is said to hav confessed his guilt.

Negro Guarded.

Constitution
8-19-31
Atlanta, Ga

MERIDIAN, Miss., Aug. 18.—(AP) Walter Johnson, the negro who robbed and shot Boudie Joggers, 21-year-old white man of Pontotoc, Miss., Sunday night and then pushed him off a moving freight train, was in the Meridian jail today for safe-keeping. Joggers was reported in a serious condition at a local hospital.

Call Out Troops to Save Prisoner

Chicago

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 23.—Determined to save "Kid Boy" Jackson from a mob of whites, Governor Theodore G. Bilbo ordered a detachment of national guardsmen sent to Liberty, Miss., Thursday.

"Kid Boy," alleged slayer of Bramlette Bates, white planter near here, has been threatened with death. Gov. Bilbo said he had been advised by the sheriff of Amite county, where Liberty is located, that a mob had formed at that place.

Jackson, who was arrested by a posse, which outwitted a mob shortly after the Bates slaying, has been kept in the Magnolia jail, 22 miles from Liberty, since his capture.

Officers had planed to take "Kid Boy" from Magnolia to Liberty for arraignment and trial but found the mob had formed.

Bates was alleged to have been killed in an altercation over crops.

Troops Guarding Mississippi Negro

10-23-31

M'COMB, MISS., Oct. 22.—(AP)—Troops stalked the hills of South Mississippi tonight, sent here by Gov. T. G. Bilbo at the request of Sheriff N. B. Travis, of Amite County to protect Emanuel (Kid Boy) Jackson, negro, alleged slayer of Bramblett Batte, 51-year-old planter of Amite County, from violence.

Sheriff Travis said tonight he had requested the troops merely as a precaution against trouble because of a threat of a crowd of men whom officers encountered while transferring the negro to Liberty for trial. The negro was carried safely through the crowd grouped at a bridge between Magnolia and Liberty.

A detachment of National Guard troops was sent late today from Jackson in charge of Maj. Allan McCleur and, pending their arrival, a mobilization of the local unit of the Guard, under Capt. J. T. Dawson, was reported underway.

Tonight it was believed troops and officers had made connection and that the negro was under guard awaiting his escort to Liberty, tomorrow morning to receive the verdict of the jury in his trial for murder.

NEW YORK TIMES

OCT 23 19

GUARD MISSISSIPPI NEGRO.

Troops Ordered by Bilbo to Protect Slayer Against Mob.

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 22 (AP).—Governor Bilbo ordered out a detachment of National Guardsmen today to protect a Negro threatened with violence at ~~Liberty when advised~~ by the Sheriff of the county that a mob had formed there.

The Negro, Kid Boy Jackson, is charged with slaying Bramlette Bates, a white planter, in an altercation over crops.

Jackson was arrested by a posse, which outwitted a mob, shortly after the Bates slaying. He has been kept in the Magnolia jail, twenty-two miles from Liberty, since his capture. Today officers planned to take the Negro to Liberty for arraignment and trial, but found that the mob had formed. The Guardsmen were ordered to accompany the Negro from Magnolia to Liberty.

NEW YORK SUN

OCT 22 19

Mississippi Troops To Guard Negro

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 22 (A. P.).—Gov. Theodore G. Bilbo ordered out a detachment of National Guardsmen today to protect a Negro threatened ~~with violence~~ at Liberty, Miss.

The Negro, Kid Boy Jackson, is charged with slaying Bramlette Bates, a white planter, near Liberty several weeks ago.

News
Jackson, Miss

NOV 10 1931

MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA

"The Southern Worker," a four-page weekly issued by the Communist party, printed in Chattanooga carries in its current number an outrageous press dispatch alleged to have been sent from Liberty, Miss. anent the recent trial and conviction of Emmanue Jackson for the murder of Bramlett Bates.

The dispatch first gives a distorted story of the negro's crime and then says:

> "Governor Bilbo, head of the lynch gang in the state, called out troops, although there was no threat of mob violence. The troops patrolled the streets while the negro pleaded that he killed in self-defense when threatened with a knife.
>
> "Twelve autos full of troops accompanied Jackson and some deputy sheriffs to the county jail in Hinds county, because the authorities of Amite county said they feared mob viloence.
>
> "The farm laborers and the croppers must organize a big movement against the habitual slaying of their members by the rich farmers.
>
> "Everywhere the rabid lynch campaign is raging throughout the plantation areas of the South. Camp Hill was a high point in that campaign. Scottsboro is the outstanding example today of mass terror against negroes. The Peterson case is another; so is the Jones case in Maryland. Now comes another—the Jackson lynch conspiracy in Mississippi."

It is of silly stuff such as this that Communism is manufactured. But, silly and distorted though the above may be, it is nevertheless a menace to the nation, and cause for serious apprehension in Mississippi and throughout the South.

"The Southern Worker" is one of several Communistic sheets distributing thousands of free copies each week among the negroes of the South for the plain purpose of stirring up strife and racial hatred.

Notice, if you please, the insiduousness of this propaganda. The Governor of the state is denounced as "head of the lynch gang," even though he used state troops effectively to prevent a lynching. The murderer is pictured as a martyr, even though he entered a plea of guilty and as a matter of fact did not claim self-defense. An appeal is made for the negroes to organize in "a big movement," the inevitable result of which would be bloodshed.

Lynchings - 1931
Prevented.

Mississippi.

NEGRO SLAYER HIDDEN.

Mystery Surrounding Killing of Youth Is Not Solved.

appeal
1-3-31
Memphis Tenn.

QUITMAN, Miss., Jan. 2.—Sheriff W. Z. West has removed George McInnis, negro, to [illegible] jail outside of Clarke County for safe keeping pending a further investigation of the fatal shooting of Ausey Wilkinson, young man, on the highway five miles south of Quitman Tuesday night.

Wilkinson and the McInnis negro were said to have been walking along the highway when the young white man was shot. The negro ran to the home of Fortner Dabbs on whose place they both lived and reported that Wilkinson had been shot by a passing motorist.

It is said that Wilkinson made the statement when he was first found that some one had shot him from a passing car, but it is alleged that he later retracted that statement and blamed the negro McInnis, with the shooting, saying that McInnis told him that if he did not tell the same story he would shoot him again. Officers found a .38 revolver in the loft of the negro's home. The bullet corresponded to that calibre gun.

There are several conflicting stories concerning the affair. A report today would seem to indicate that others might be implicated in the affair. A pool of blood was found about 150 yards from the place where Wilkinson was found in the road. There was evidence of a struggle having taken place.

Young Wilkinson was buried this afternoon at the Dabbs cemetery two miles south of Quitman. He lived in the house with his cousin, Sam Taylor, both tenants on the Dabbs farm.

MOB VIOLENCE FEARED.

Negro Attacker Spirited Away By Jackson County Officers.

appeal
2-23-31
Memphis
Tennessee

GULFPORT, Miss., Feb. 24.—Investigation was being made here today by District Attorney W. M. Colmer into an alleged criminal assault [illegible] a 20-year-old Jackson County [illegible] upon a woman resident of the rural section north of Ocean Springs.

The negro, [illegible] name of Tom Caraway, was arrested last night by Jackson County authorities, and spirited away to an unnamed South Mississippi jail, after mob violence had been threatened, it was tlearned from the district attorney here today, who was in Gulfport in connection with the sessions of the Harrison County grand jury.

The woman, Mrs. Camie Bilbo, was criminally assaulted by the young negro, a former employe on the Bilbo premises after he had struck her over the head with a stick, according to information furnished the district attorney by hSeriff John D. Lowe, of Pascagoula.

Feeling against the negro is said to be at a high pitch and officers had no hesitancy in admitting that the negro's whereabouts was being kept secret to prevent a possible lynching.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
Thursday, May 7, 1931

AVERT MOB ACTION AFTER CONFESSION

Negro Says He Slew Mississippi Couple With Axe.

Water Valley, Miss., May 6 (AP). Authorities here tonight expressed belief they had averted possible mob action against Sam Green, 19-year-old negro, who, police said, confessed today to killing W. B. Wagner, 64, banker and merchant, and his wife with an axe.

Shortly after the alleged confession had been announced, Sheriff C. T. Dyle said crowds gathered in the streets here, but later dispersed when he pleaded with them to permit an unhampered investigation of the negro's story.

The negro's confession, as quoted by police:

"He (Wagner) slapped me and said he was going to whip me. I went to the house and found Mrs. Wagner in the dining room. I hit her with the axe. Somebody was coming so I ran out. It was Mr. Wagner. I hit him and he fell dead.

"I returned to find Mrs. Wagner unconscious but alive. I took her in the automobile to the ditch where she was found. I could still hear her groannig, so I went down and killed her to put her out of her misery."

SHERIFF AVERTS LYNCHING OF 2 IN 'OLE MISS'

Journal

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 8—Bravery of Sheriff S. R. Coleman of Greenwood who thleatened Wednesday night to meet with machine gun fire any members of a mob probably saved the life of Sam Green, 19, alleged murderer of his employer, Will B. Wagner, 64, retired bank president, and his wife, Mrs. Wagner.

Green and Emmet Shaw, 35, were rushed from the Water Valley jail and probably are in Jackson, the capital. Members of the posse, learning of the pair's removal, drove 50 miles from Water Valley to Greenwood in their search for the two men.

5-8-31

When Sheriff Coleman met the mob on the steps of the Greenwood jail, he told them the men were not there. They threatened to come in and look for themslves. The officer then told them he would "kill any man who comes to get the nigger." The mob dispersed and the sheriff kept deputies guarding the jail all night.

Atlanta, Ga.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Wagner were found Tuesday morning in a badly mangled condition and it is said that an axe was used to commit the crime. Green, who is rather thin and light in weigh. implicated others in the crime and officials are inclined to believe some of his statements that he had help in the deed as he is too small to move the bodies to the ditch, where they were found.

Th trouble arose after the threatening of a whipping by the man who berated his servant for failing to return a borrowed shotgun. The boy said in part:

"He slapped me and said that he was going to whip me. Then I went to the house, found Mrs. Wagner in the dining room and hit her with the axe. Somebody was coming in the room. It was Mr. Wagner. I hit him and he fell dead."

Green then told the policemen how he buried his employer in the garden and returned to the house to find Mrs. Wagner unconscious. He placed the woman in the automobile and took her to the ditch where her body was found Tuesday. The lad says that he killed her to put her out of her misery.

Just who the other Negroes are who are involved in the affair is not being released by officials as yet as they are anxious to let the law take its course.

Sheriff Averts

Ax Slaying Of Couple Is Admitted By Negro

Advertiser
5-7-31

WATER VALLEY, MISS., May 6.—(AP)—Mob ~~threats led officers to~~ conceal Sam Green, 19, negro house servant, today ~~while Sheriff~~ C. T. Doyle probed the boy's story that others were implicated in the ax slayings of his employer, W. B. Wagner, 64, ~~and~~ Mrs. Mamie Wagner, 60.

Montgomery, Ala.

Sheriff Doyle said Green confessed that he killed the couple Monday night because Wagner threatened to whip him for failing to return a borrowed shotgun. Green was reared in the home of the well-to-do banker and merchant. Crowds gathered on the streets here when the confession was announced. Sheriff Doyle said he believed they had agreed to his plea for an unhampered investigation and had abandoned threats to lynch the negro.

LYNCHING AVERTED BY BOLD SHERIFF

Constitution
5-7-31
Atlanta, Ga.

Machine Guns at Mississippi Jail Effectually Cow Mob Seeking Negro.

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 6. (UP)—A mob which drove some 50 miles overland in this area today in an attempt to capture Sam Green, 19, negro houseboy, who allegedly confessed to murdering his employer, Will B. Wagner, 64, wealthy bank president, and Mrs. Wagner, returned here empty-handed tonight.

Members of the posse which formed today after officers announced they had obtained a confession from the negro, said they were convinced sheriff's officers had outwitted them by hurrying the negro to Jackson, the state capital.

According to authorities, the negro said he entered the beautiful Wagner home late Monday evening, attacked and killed Mrs. Wagner with an ax and later killed her husband as he attempted to defend himself.

After ascertaining that the negro and a companion arrested with him, Emmet Shaw, 35, negro formerly employed in a store owned by Wagner, were not in the Water Valley jail, the mob went 50 miles southeast of here to Greenwood in its search for the pair.

Sheriff S. R. Coleman, of Greenwood, met the mob with two machine guns mounted on the steps of the jail. He announced the prisoners had been taken from the Greenwood jail and presumably were in the county jail at Jackson.

Threats of the crowd to enter the jail forcibly and search it were dissipated when the sheriff said he had instructed his deputies to "kill any man who comes to get the nigger." He maintained an extra force of deputies around the building for that purpose, he said.

Constitution
5-7-31
Atlanta, Ga.

The slain couple was buried here today and it was following the service that several automobile loads of men left here en route to Greenwood. Spokesmen in the crowd said they intended bringing the negro back to Water Valley where he would be put to death.

Jackson is some 150 miles from here and it was believed unlikely that any attempt would be made by the men to go to Jackson tonight and demand custody of the prisoner.

Officers said the crowd, while threatened violence, had been frightened by the machine guns at Greenwood and was becoming less boisterous.

CONFESSED AX KILLER HIDDEN BY OFFICERS

Commercial Appeal

Taken From Greenwood to Unannounced Jail.

5-17-31

BANKER, WIFE BURIED

Memphis, Tenn.

Reported "Mob" Fails to Reach Lefore County Jail—Negro Implicates Others In Admitting Brutal Crime to Sheriff.

Special to The Commercial Appeal.

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 6.—While officers continued to successfully hide three negroes, one of whom has confessed to the brutal ax murder of Will B. Wagner, 64-year-old bank president, and his wife, Mrs. Mamie Wagner, 60, funeral services for the victims were held this afternoon from the Presbyterian Church with one of the largest crowds in the history of Water Valley attending.

Reports here this morning before the funeral services that a mob had formed and proceeded to Greenwood to take Sam Green, 19, houseboy at the Wagner home, and Emmett Shaw, 35, into custody, caused Leflore County officials to remove the pair to an unannounced jail and tonight Water Valley was resuming a normal appearance.

Talked to "Large Crowd."

That a mob had gathered was not only denied by Sheriff C. T. Doyle, but by several substantial citizens who kept a close eye on the case during the day. Green, who made a complete confession to Sheriff Doyle and John Fox of the Fox-Pelletier Detective Agency at the Greenwood jail last night, and Shaw were carried there yesterday to prevent a possible lynching.

The sheriff admitted, however, that he had talked to a large crowd "and persuaded them to abandon their plans." Several cars with armed men were reported to have left the city.

Another negro has been arrested as a suspicious character. Th sheriff refused to divulge his name and stated that the negro had been placed in another jail.

Tonight the sheriff announced that he was convinced of the guilt of Green, but that further investigation would be necessary before the various accomplices he named in his confession could be arrested and questioned. Sheriff Doyle is positive that Green was aided in the slaying of the couple.

Revenge was Motive.

That revenge prompted the double murder was positively established when Green told officers that Mr. Wagner slapped him Monday for failing to return a shotgun Sunday he had borrowed.

In his confession the negro said:

"He slapped me. He said he was going to whip me Tuesday. I went to the house that night with an ax and found Mrs. Wagner in the dining room.

"I hit her on the head and she flopped to the floor. Somebody was coming, so I ran out the back. It was Mr. Wagner. I hit him with an ax and he fell dead.

"After that I buried Mr. Wagner in the back yard and went back in the dining room and Mrs. Wagner was still alive. I guess she was unconscious but she lay there and groaned. I took her out to the garage, turned on the light and put her in the car, then drove down and killed her to put her out of her misery. I don't know why I took the car back to the garage, but I just did."

Shaw, the second negro, was implicated by Green, but the varied stories related by the confessed slayer have led officers to believe that he is lying in some particulars. Three white men and several more negroes were implicated by the slightly-built youth.

Funeral services for Mr. and Mrs. Wagner were conducted by the Rev. O. M. Anderson, the Rev. J. M. Dorman and the Rev. J. D. Wroten.

Commercial Appeal

Mr. Wagner is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary Wagner, 87, a brother, A. G. Wagner, and a son, William, of Honduras, who radiogrammed this afternoon that he would not be able to reach Water Valley before next Tuesday.

The bank president, who was also head of the Wagner Department Store here, and his wife were killed Monday night about 10 o'clock. Their bodies were discovered early Tuesday morning in shallow graves. Mr. Wagner's body had been buried under a few inches of sand about 50 feet from the house, while the body of Mrs. Wagner had been tossed in a gully one mile east of the city.

Now Let Justice Be Swift and Sure.

Commercial Appeal

It is not premature to commend the authorities of Water Valley and other towns in our neighboring State of Mississippi for their quick and courageous action in averting threatened mob violence for those guilty of the brutal murder of the aged banker, W. B. Wagner, and his wife. No matter what may later happen those officials have shown their purpose and determination to uphold the majesty of the law and its properly ordained processes.

5-8-31

A few years back few officials would have dared to oppose the public indignation that would have been aroused by such a foul crime as was the murder of the aged couple. But the Mississippi authorities have exhibited both courage and efficiency in holding the prisoners so that their fates may be decided in the manner and according to the methods that society has prescribed.

Memphis News

It now remains for the courts to assist the efforts made in behalf of the law and lawful processes by seeing to it that justice is swift and sure.

CALL SPECIAL COURT TO TRY AX SLAYERS

Commercial Appeal

Water Valley Negroes to Face Jury June 8.

5-8-31

REPORTER IS ACCUSED

Memphis News

Gerald Kelley, Arrested on Warrant Charging "Criminal Libel," Freed on $1,000 Bond. Murderers Hidden.

Special to The Commercial Appeal.

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 7.—A special session of a Yalobusha County grand jury has been called for June 8 to consider the case of Sam Green, 19-year-old negro, who confessed to the brutal ax murder here Monday night of Will B. Wagner, 64-year-old bank president, and his wife, Mamie, 60.

Milton Thompson, Senatobia, district attorney, made the announcement this afternoon after conferring with Sheriff C. T. Doyle. Provisions will be made to protect Green and any others brought to trial for the murder, it was indicated. The confessed slayer and two other negroes are in unannounced jails, having been removed by Sheriff Sam Coleman from Greenwood yesterday afternoon.

Defer Reporter's Hearing.

In the meanwhile, a hearing for Gerald Kelley, Press-Scimitar reporter, who surrendered this afternoon in Greenwood on charges of "criminal libel," and who later made bond, loomed improbable at this time, Mr. Thompson stating from his home at Senatobia that it was his understanding that the bond would hold good until the grand jury met and either indicted him or ignored the charges.

Kelley surrendered to Sheriff Sam Coleman, at Greenwood, after he learned that Sheriff Doyle had issued a warrant charging him with "criminal libel" based on a story appearing in the Press-Scimitar which related that a mob had started to Greenwood to take the negroes into custody.

Littleton Upshur, editor of the Greenwood Commonwealth, and Sam Montgomery, Greenwood business man, went on Kelley's bond for $1,000.

Water Valley Quiet.

Kelley declared today that everything he has said about the case is true.

Water Valley is quiet today following funeral services of the victims yesterday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner, both prominent in North Mississippi business and social circles, were killed with an ax and their bodies buried in shallow graves. Discovery of the crime was made Monday morning.

Green and Emmett Shaw, 35, the latter formerly employed at Wagner's store, were arrested Monday morning by officials here. They were removed to the Greenwood jail that afternoon and late that night a confession was obtained by Deputy Charlie Tomlinson, Greenwood, and John Fox, of the Fox-Pelletier Detective Agency, Memphis.

The negro implicated others, and Sheriff Doyle stated today he believed it would be several days before the case is finally cleared up and the accomplices arrested.

REVENGE IS SEEN AS MOTIVE FOR MURDER OF BANKER AND WIFE

Commercial Appeal

Two Negroes Held in Unannounced Jail.

5-6-31

FEELING RUNS HIGH

Memphis News

Water Valley Couple Slain With Ax.

BODIES ARE MUTILATED

Houseboy at Home of Will B Wagner and Former Employ in Victim's Store Arrested b Yalobusha County Officers in Connection With Brutal Crime. Comparison of Fingerprints Today May Lead to Identity of Slayer, Officers State.

Special to The Commercial Appeal.

WATER VALLEY, Miss., May 5.—That revenge prompted the slaying of Will B. Wagner, 64-year-old bank president and his wife, Mrs. Mamie Wagner, 60, was voiced by officers today after they had placed two negroes in an unannounced jail following the brutal ax murder of the couple in their home last night.

Sam Green, 19, houseboy at the Wagner home, and Emmett Shaw, 35, formerly employed at Wagner's store, were taken into custody early this morning shortly after the two bodies were discovered in shallow graves.

Feeling Runs High.

They were whisked away in an automobile on orders of Sheriff C. T. Doyle and officers refused to say tonight where they had been taken as feeling is running high here.

It was learned early tonight from Sheriff Doyle that Green had been reprimanded yesterday at noon by Mr. Wagner for refusing to return a shotgun Sunday he had taken from the Wagner store. Mr. Wagner threatened to have the boy arrested, it was stated, and it is in this connection that revenge has been tentatively established as the motive for the crime. Shaw was fired by Mr. Wagner two months ago.

Another negro, Callie Wiggins, cook for the Wagners, was arrested this morning and was released after questioning. She was among the first to make the discovery of the slaying this morning.

Following a trail of blood from the back porch of the banker's home, officers found Wagner's battered body buried in a shallow grave about 50 feet from the house. His head was crushed and his body slashed in many places.

Body Found in Gully.

The multilated body of Mrs. Wagner was found in a roadside gully one mile east of the city. Her head was almost severed from her body and there were frightful bruises on her shoulders and limbs.

The Wagner car was used by the killers to take Mrs. Wagner's body from they house. They then returned the automobile to the garage and left the keys in a window of the structure. It was learned this afternoon that a neighbor saw the couple enter their home last night between 9 and 10 o'clock, followed by two persons but it was too dark to establis hidentity of the pair trailing them.

A short time later noises were heard like that of furniture being moved. A car was then driven from the garage and returned after a short interval.

Officers believe that Mr. Wagner was the first victim of the fiend.

Pools of blood were found in his bedroom and the furniture was in disorder. Mrs. Wagner probably was slain in the dining room, where indications of a second struggle were found.

The Wagner home is one of the most attractive in Water Valley.

Thousands of people from over North Mississippi flocked here today to visit the scene of the crime and the gully in which Mrs. Wagner's body was found.

Commercial Appeal
5-6-31

Citizens Enraged.

Citizens of the vicinity, enraged at the crime, were talking mob violence but removal of the two negroes held in connection with the slaying is believed to have prevented a lynching at this time.

Fingerprints on the blody ax and elsewhere at the house were taken by John Fox of the Fox-Pelletier Detective Agency of Memphis. Prints of the negroes' fingerprints were taken for comparison but no announcement would be made toninght concerning comparisons. It was indicated that it would be tomorrow before anything definite could be learned.

Because of the hideous manner in which the bodies were mutilated, officials are inclined to believe the killing was the work of a maniac. It was pointed out that the murderers must have been insane to remain at the scene of the crime long enough to bury one body, remove the other and return.

Motive Not Robbery.

Robbery was eliminated as a possible motive when it was learned that nothing of value had been taken from the house and that diamond rings and valuables watches on th murdered pair had not been removed.

Wagner, a wealthy merchant and farmer as well as president of the Bank of Water Valley, was last seen yesterday by L. C. Barber, editor of the Water Valley Herald. Wagner and Barber discussed business conditions about 6:30 p.m. yesterday and no one saw the ax victims alive after that time.

Mrs. Wagner's body was located after blood was found leading to the garage and car tracks were noticed from the garage to the road. Sand had been thrown over her body, which was under the side of a ledge near the road.

The body of Mr. Wagner was only a few inches deep in sandy soil near the house. Brush and limbs from trees had been torn off and piled over the makeshift grave.

Wagner Widely Known.

Wagner had been a resident of Water Valley virtually all his life and was widely known throughout the North Mississippi business world. Besides being president of the bank, he was head of the Wagner Department Store, the largest in the city. He was a master Mason and a Rotarian.

His mother, Mrs. Mary Wagner, 87, lives here as does a brother, A. G. Wagner. The brother and a cousin, Eugene Wagner, of Memphis, are co-operating with officers in running down the killers. A. G. Wagner was a former business man of Memphis.

The Wagners are survived by a son, William, of Honduras, who left by airplane this afternoon. He probably will reach Water aViley in time for the funeral services tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Presbyterian Church with the Rev. A. M. Anderson officiating.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wagner were members of the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Wagner was president of several Water Valley clubs and a leader in the town's social life.

Lynchings-1931

Prevented.

Mississippi

3437

NEGROES' TROOP GUARD RECALLED BY BILBO

Constitution

6-11-31

Mississippi Community Will Give Suspects Fair Trial, Sheriff Says.

Atlanta, Ga.

WATER VALLEY, Miss., June 9. (AP)—State troops, ordered here as a precautionary measure to guard two negroes accused of the ax-slayings of W. B. Wagner and his wife, were ordered to return to their homes early today when Sheriff Charles Doyle notified Governor Theodore Bilbo that the national guardsmen would not be needed.

"Yalobusha citizens are law abiding and will attempt no disorder during the trials," the sheriff said today. "Whitaker and Shaw will get fair trials without interference."

Sam Whitaker, 17, and Emmett Shaw, 40, the negroes accused of the slayings, were indicted today on first degree murder charges and their trials set to begin Thursday.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented.

Missouri.

3444

SHERIFF FOILS MOB WITH STRONG WORDS AND PROTECTS PRISONER

Journal and Guide
1-3-31
Norfolk, Va.

St. JOSEPH, Mo.—(ANP)—"Business ·rds" spoken through the iron bars of ·e county jail by Sheriff John Roach onvinced a mob of 150 citizens that it ould do them no good to seek to cap·ure the person of Raymond Gunn, who s being held in jail for an alleged at·ack on Miss Velma Colter, 19-year-old white schol teacher and her subsequent murder.

Sheriff Roach assembled all his deputies, called upon the city police and ordered a machine gun tank from the national guard. He told the mob leaders that there was nothing doing and the police beat the men back until guard lines were established a block from the jail. Mob members then gathered at a spot two blocks distant and held a conference but nothing happened.

Gunn is said to have served a sentence for attacking a co-ed at the Missouri State Teachers College where Miss Colter was once a student.

MISSOURI SHERIFF PREVENTS LYNCHING

Courier
3-21-31
Pittsburgh

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo., Mar. 19.—(ANP)—Officers from Kennett, Mo., had a race with a mob and won on Wednesday, when they were rushing Tom Brown to the local jail to prevent him from being lynched.

Brown was accused of attacking a white woman. He was as usual arrested, positively identified, and everything. The mob then formed and the officers got busy and set sail in the direction of this city.

A mob of angry whites in automobiles pursued them until they reached the city limits, but gave up the chase as the officers neared the county jail.

Missouri Mob Foiled In Lynching Attempt

1-3-31

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—(CNS)—Efforts of mob rule to add another victim to its long list of lynching for the year of 1930 proved futile here last Sunday when the sheriff, his deputies and a national guard tank company held at bay a mob of nearly 200 men who had gathered from Maryville, Mo., on expectation of storming the Buchanan County jail and taking Raymond Gunn, colored trapper, charged with the murder of Velmba Colter, white school teacher of the above town on the previous night.

Cleveland, Ohio

The guardsmen placed a tank equipped with a machine gun at the jail entrance.

Buchanan county officers believe prisoners in jail here can easily be guarded from any violence. The cells are in the center of the building. Seven heavy steel doors must be opened before entrance can be made into the cell rooms.

THWART LYNCHING AT MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

[illegible] 1-2-31
St. Louis, Mo.

MARYVILLE, Mo., Dec. 31.—Mob violence against Raymond Gunn, who is said to have confessed to the murder of Velma Colter, 19-year-old school teacher, was avoided here Saturday. Gunn was rushed here before dawn from Kansas City and formally charged with the crime and then taken out of town. Watchers who have been on the lookout for Gunn's arrival were apparently not aware of what was taking place.

Gunn waived preliminary hearing and will be brought here for trial during the January term.

Governor Says Negroes Are Being Protected

Advertiser 4-20-31
Montgomery, Ala.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., April 20.—(AP)—Gov. Henry S. Caulfield said today all possible precautions had been taken to protect from mob action Uel Richardson, 27, and Emmett Gallie, 30, negroes convicted in Clinton Nov. 1, of murdering Mrs. Elizabeth Neiman, 63-year-old widow at her farm home near Windsor Oct. 18.

The Governor's statement was made in connection with a report by Helen Boardman, investigator for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, that a plot to lynch the negroes exists in Henry County where they were tried.

The negroes, under death sentence, are in the State penitentiary here for safekeeping pending decision of the Missouri Supreme Court upon their appeal. The Governor said a company of State militia was mobilized at Clinton at the time of the trial and the militia would be called out again if necessary.

"I believe we have done all in our power to protect the pair," the Governor said, "and we will continue to do so until justice is done."

News
Jefferson City
APR 21 1931

PROTECTION FROM MOB IS ASSURED

Governor Caulfield Promises All Possible Precautions Will Be Taken to Guard Negroes.

Gov. Henry S. Caulfield said yesterday all possible precautions had been and would be taken to protect from mob action Uel Richardson, 27, and Emmett Gallie, 30, negroes, convicted at Clinton, Nov 1 of murdering Mrs. Elizabeth Neiman, 63-year-old widow, at her farm home near Windsor, Oct. 18.

The governor's statement was made in connection with a report by Miss Helen Boardman, investigator for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, that a plot to lynch the negroes exists in Henry County where they were tried.

The negroes, under death sentence, are in the state penitentiary here for safe keeping pending decision of the Missouri Supreme Court upon their appeal. The governor said a company of state militia was mobilized at Clinton at time of the trial and the militia would be called out again if necessary.

"I believe we have done all in our power to protect the pair," the governor said, "and we will continue to do so until justice is done."

Prosecuting Attorney J. B. Owen of Henry county, characterized the report of threatened mob violence as "absolutely ridiculous." He explained a large crowd at Clinton at time of the negroes' preliminary hearing was there to hear an address by former U. S. Senator James A. Reed.

Frederick Wesner, Sedalia attorney, defending the negroes, denied Miss Boardman's statement he had been threatened and said he had heard no rumors of contemplated violence.

The negroes were taken to Kansas City after arrest and confessed, police there said, they had killed Mrs. Neiman by beating her on the head with an iron rod when she refused to tell where she kept her money. Their trial lasted two days.

Richardson recently was granted a new trial by the State Supreme Court which held evidence was insufficient on which he was convicted and sentenced to ten years for a slaying in 1928.

JOURNAL
Warrensburg, Mo
APR 21 1931

DENY MOB THREATENS TWO NEGRO SLAYERS

Sedalia Attorney Denies He Was Threatened As Charged by Investigator for Colored Association

The report that "a plot to lynch two negroes exists in Henry County, Missouri," which was made Monday to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by Miss Helen Boardman, an investigator for the organization has met with emphatic denials by Missouri officials.

Miss Boardman made her report following a visit to Windsor to investigate the cases of Uel Richardson and Emmett Gallie, negroes given death sentences for the murder of Mrs. Elizabeth Neiman, 63-year-old widow, at her farm home near Windsor, October 18.

As a result of Miss Boardman's report, the association has announced it would endorse the motion for an appeal made by the two negroes and for a change of venue.

Her report to the association said the negroes' attorney had no chance to see them until twenty minutes before the trial; and that the trial itself took place in the presence of "a mob of 2,000 persons, some of them with ropes in their hands, demanding the negroes be lynched."

Reports Open Threats

"Open threats have been made," Miss Boardman said, "that if the negroes are returned to the county from the state penitentiary—where they now are held for safe keeping—they will be lynched."

As a result of the investigator's report, the national association announced it would indorse the motion for an appeal and for a change of venue.

The following story from the Sedalia Capital refutes parts of the report made by the investigator:

J. B. Owen, prosecuting attorney of Henry County, branded as "absolutely ridiculous" the statements made that there is a plot existing in Henry County to lynch the two negroes charged with the murder of Elizabeth Neiman. "There is no sentiment whatsoever here," he declared.

Mr. Owen stated that N. B. Conrad was prosecuting attorney of Henry County at the time of the trial, but he (Owen) attended and declared there were no threats of mob violence. On the day the negroes were given a preliminary hearing, he said, James A. Reed delivered a speech in Clinton. There were thousands in Clinton, and had they wanted to do any lynching they had a wonderful opportunity then.

Mr. Owen stated he had never heard of a Miss Boardman and knew of no investigation she had made.

Frederick Wesner, Sedalia attorney, who represented the negroes, also denied the statements made above which referred to him. He said that he had not been threatened with death if he motored through the township. His parents live in Calhoun, he said, he goes to Henry County frequently, he was born and reared in Windsor, and was formerly prosecuting attorney of Henry County.

"I have heard very little about the case lately," said Mr. Wesner. Occasionally someone asks what has become of it. It is now in the hands of the Supreme Court pending appeal.

There was some feeling on the part of the citizens of the community at the time of the trial last November, when they believed the negroes were going to ask for a continuance of their trial. The continuance was asked for, was not granted by the court, and the feeling died down.

Prior to the trial Governor Henry S. Caulfield took precautions to prevent mob violence. He telephoned the sheriff at Clinton, August W. Kahmann, and suggested that the Clinton National Guard unit be held in readiness at the Armory less than a block from the cour house.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Nebraska

3442

NEW YORK JOURNAL

JAN 13 1931

PAL OF LYNCHED NEGRO GUARDED

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 13 (By International News Service).—Police here today are attempting to unravel complications which have arisen as a result of the lynching at Maryville, Mo., yesterday of Raymond Gunn, negro, accused of attacking and murdering Velma Coulter, rural school teacher, on December 16.

Gunn, who was said to have confessed the crime, implicated Paul Shike Smith, 31, negro, just before he was burned to death at the scene of the crime.

Omaha police were warned that ten car loads of Missourians were en route to get Smith. Smith was arrested, and police began immediately to investigate the possibility of his connection with the murder.

.. After their investigations and a check-up with Prosecutor Rathburn, of Maryville, police here are convinced that Smith had no connection with the crime, although he was working in Maryville at the time and have taken steps to protect him from lynchers.

Police are also investigating evidence tending to connect Gunn with the Omaha axe murders of 1928. Gunn was suspected of these gruesome murders at the time, but denied them. Police claim to have evidence, however, that Gunn was in Omaha at that time.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

New Jersey

3441

NEW YORK TIMES

FEB 19 1931

POLICE SAVE NEGRO FROM JERSEY MOB

Riot Squad Called When He Is Stoned in Perth Amboy, Scene of Recent Evolution Row.

LYNCHING THREATS MADE

Crowd, Hearing Girl's Screams, Drags Man From House—Held at Bay by Lieutenant's Pistol.

Special to The New York Times.

PERTH AMBOY, N. J., Feb. 18.—With drawn pistol, Police Lieutenant Frank Kasprzak saved a 25-year-old Negro, Ignatius Du Busson, from the fury of a mob which had severely beaten Du Busson and threatened to lynch him, here this afternoon.

This city was the scene of a recent evolution controversy, when "A Child's History of the World" was removed from the reference shelves of the public schools because objection had been made to the manner in which the book described the life of pre-historic man.

Only with the arrival of a motorcycle policeman and a police riot squad, was it possible for Lieutenant Kasprzak to remove Du Busson safely to police headquarters. Some members of the crowd, it was said, had threatened to rush Kasprzak when the reserves arrived.

Du Busson, who lives in Grand Street here and has been unemployed for some time, had obtained a temporary job street cleaning from the city employment agency. He was working in Catalpa Avenue this afternoon.

He was seen going to a house near where he was working. There, according to the police, he asked a girl servant, whose name the police refused to divulge, for a drink of water. She gave it to him and when she went back into the house, he followed her, the police said.

More than a dozen men who were working in the street heard the girl screaming. They rushed into the house and found Du Busson beating the girl, according to the police version. They dragged him outside where he made a break for liberty.

As he fled, the mob pelted him with stones until a particularly heavy missile brought him down. Recapturing him, some of the members set upon him, while others advocated hanging him. Du Busson's terror-stricken screams, however, attracted the attention of the police lieutenant.

Du Busson was locked up at police headquarters on a technical charge of disorderly conduct. He will be arraigned before Recorder Harold E. Pickersgill tomorrow. He has no previous police record.

Lynchings-1931.
Prevented

New York

3785

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

APR 27 1931

Negro Escapes Lynching As Jamaica Police Rout 250

Tipsy Waiter Held After Rescue for Striking 5 Women

A mob of 250 persons attempted to lynch an intoxicated Negro at Sutphin Boulevard and Ninety-seventh Avenue, Jamaica, Queens, yesterday afternoon after he struck five women and knocked down a white man who tried to halt him. A score of policemen were required to save him from the mob, members of which were shouting "Lynch him" and "Get a rope around his neck" while they beat him severely.

The Negro, who gave his name as Joseph Chestnutt, twenty-eight years old, a waiter at the Aqueduct race track, was arrested on charges of third degree assault and intoxication.

Lieutenant Smith received a call at Jamaica station at 6 p.m. that a maniac was attacking a group of people at Sutphin Boulevard and Ninety-seventh Avenue and immediately sent twenty men under Sergeant Dooley to the scene. They found Patrolman Dougherty vainly trying to rescue Chestnutt from the mob.

The Negro's attackers gave way before Dooley's squad and Chestnut was taken to a police booth at 101st Avenue and the boulevard, about which the police threw a cordon to hold back the threatening mob. When a patrol wagon arrived Chestnut marched between two lines of policemen to the van and was taken to the station. The assault charge was preferred by John A. Hartwein, of 102 Brisbane Street, Jamaica, whom the Negro had knocked down. Four stitches were taken in Hartwein's lower lip.

N. Y. EVENING POST

DEC 28 1931

LYNCHING THREAT IN BROOKLYN CHASE

Policeman With Drawn Revolver Guards Prisoner From Mob

ATTACKED WOMEN, CHARGE

After a chase of two blocks, during which shots were fired, Patrolman Edward McCormick of the Bergen Street station, Brooklyn this afternoon captured a Negro who had allegedly attacked two women.

Then, when the crowd that had taken part in the chase surrounded the Negro crying "Lynch him!" Patrolman McCormick stood guard over his prisoner with drawn revolver until the arrival of reserves.

Later the suspect, who said he is William Ming, twenty-four, of 545 West 156th Street, Manhattan, was declared by police to resemble the man who murdered Mildred Sarah Burrows, ten, at 279 Halsey Street, Brooklyn, on May 7 last.

Ming also was suspected of having made three other attacks upon women in Brooklyn, and witnesses were summoned in an attempt to obtain positive identification.

Ming, according to the police, attacked Mrs. Amelia Devito of 405 Third Street, Brooklyn, and Mrs. Nellie Quigley, when the two women were leaving the home of the latter at 6 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, this afternoon.

The two women resisted, and Ming fled from the building with Mrs. Devito and Mrs. Quigley in pursuit. Other persons took part in the chase.

Patrolman McCormick, hearing the cries, took after the fugitive. The chase continued for two blocks, and McCormick fired two shots before he reached the side of the fugitive. Then a blow from his stick felled the Negro.

The crowd, which numbered more than seventy-five persons, attempted to take Ming from the patrolman. There were cries of "Lynch him!" and "String him up to a pole!"

McCormick dragged his prisoner into the doorway of a building. He stood guard over him, while a citizen telephoned for assistance.

Then the crowd dispersed.

NEW YORK SUN

DEC 28 1931

SAVES NEGRO FROM MOB IN BROOKLYN

Policeman Holds Off Crowd Demanding a Lynching.

The police this afternoon arrested a tall mulatto named William Ming, at Berkeley Place and Fourth avenue, Brooklyn after a spectacular chase and an uproar which excited thousands and filled the streets with a mob that threatened to lynch the man.

At 2 P. M. a crowd was drawn to Berkeley Place by the screaming of two women who were clawing at a tall, slender, light colored Negro and filling the air with frenzied denunciations. They had ripped his face with their fingernails and almost torn the shirt off his body. They screamed that he had insulted them as they entered the poorly-lighted hallway. One of the women was Mrs. Cecelia de Vito of 405 Third street. and the other was Mrs. Nellie Quigley who lived in the house at 6 Berkeley Place.

The Negro presently broke from them and took to his heels, the two women close behind him and after them a string of pursuers, fifty or sixty excited men and women. Policeman Edward McCormick cut into the race from a side street and drew his pistol as he ran. He shouted to the Negro to stop but the fugitive paid no attention. Then McCormick fired three shots over the Negro's head and when that had had the effect of slowing the man's pace, caught up with him at Berkeley Place and Fourth avenue. Ming showed fight and McCormick clubbed him into submission.

By that time there was a big crowd all around. The two women who had been screaming at Ming had told their story over and over again and were hysterically repeating it to all listeners. McCormick saw that trouble was looming so he turned his gun on the crowd closing in on him and ordered everybody to back up. He was answered by yells and jeers.

McCormick shouted back: "I'll give you just one minute to back away from me. If you don't, I'll shoot the nearest man."

They saw that he meant it and backed away, giving him a chance to grab Ming by the coat collar and drag him into a hallway. There, straddling the doorway, and with his pistol in readiness to use if the crowd got ugly again, McCormick blew his whistle and awaited developments. Within a few minutes other policemen came up on the run, called the wagon and helped him with his prisoner.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

North Carolina.

3445

WHITE WOMAN ACCUSES HIM OF ATTACK

Journal and Guide

Officers Remove Him To 'Parts Unknown' To Await Trial

3-7-31

SOUTHPORT, N. C.—(ANP)—Talmer Brown, a 22-year-old youth, charged with attacking a 16-year-old white girl near Wilmington, was rushed to "parts unknown" by officers to avert threatened mob violence.

Norfolk Va.

The alleged assault took place at Town Creek, about ten miles from Wilmington, and the affair remained a secret for several hours. The sheriff of the county was told of the assault by the woman who was then in a local hospital in a serious condition. The officers, however, deemed it expedient to keep the matter quiet until the youth had been captured.

The news leaked out and immediately a posse of citizens formed and began the quest for the attacker while hordes of armed and angry men scoured the country, trailed and in instances preceded, by officers of the law. Brown was captured by three white men and without any outcry on their part turned him over to the sheriff.

Brown was first carried before the girl, who positively identified him, and then to jail. The report of the capture and the subsequent alleged confession on the part of the youth intensified the already bitter feeling against him. This feeling was expressed in open threats to lynch Brown.

As plans were being laid for the attack against the jail and the lynching, officers quietly removed Brown from the jail and carried him away. The general opinion is divided. Some believe that the prisoner was carried to a jail in the Southeastern section of the state, while others think that he has been placed in the state prison.

The officers refused to disclose his whereabouts, simply stating, upon their return, that he was safe in jail and was being amply guarded.

NEGRO UNDER GUARD AFTER CONFESSION

Constitution

GREENSBORO, N. C., Oct. 1.—(AP) Will Moore, 58-year-old negro who, Sheriff D. B. Stafford said, confessed slaying nine-year-old Vera Leonard yesterday when her screams cut short his attempt to assault her, today was held in state's prison for safekeeping after a mob had formed around the Guilford jail here [illegible].

10-2-31

The negro had already been taken to Raleigh when the mob gathered, and after exhibiting considerable skepticism, it finally dispersed without violence.

OFFICERS AVERT MOB VIOLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Prevented

2-14-31

Houston, Texas

Southport, N. C.—(ANP)—Talmer Brown, a 22-year-old youth, charged with attacking a 16-year-old white girl near Wilmington, was rushed to "parts unknown" by officers to avert threatened mob violence.

The alleged assault took place at Town Creek, about ten miles from Wilmington and the affair remained a secret for several hours. The sheriff of the county was told of the assault by the woman who was then in a local hospital in a serious condition. The officers, however, deemed it expedient to keep the matter quiet until the youth had been captured.

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Greensboro, N. C. News
Thursday, October 1, 1931

Mob Bent On Getting Hold of Negro Marches On County Courthouse

IN ANGRY MOOD

City Hall Also Visited—Officers Handle Situation Diplomatically.

NO WEAPONS IN SIGHT

A grim and determined mob, estimated at 1,000, including men and women, mostly residents of Sumner township, where little Vera Leonard met death Wednesday at the hands of Will Moore, alias Asbury Respus, negro escaped convict, advanced on the county courthouse last night about 9:30 o'clock with the avowed intention of lynching the assailant.

When the crowd packed its way into the corridors of the county building and thronged across the courthouse lawn, they found county officers waiting for them with assurance that their man was not in the jail. The crowd was skeptical about this information, and made it clear that they wanted more concrete evidence to substantiate the fact.

Leaders Taken Through Jail.

Thereupon, the county officers, including Jailer J. S. Long and Deputy Sheriffs J. W. Donavant and A. M. Benbow, told the mob that six of their leaders would be allowed to go through the jail to satisfy themselves that the negro was not up there. The six stood out and entered the elevator which carried them to the jail on the fourth floor of the courthouse.

While the six were making their search of the jail quarters, the county officers threw all of the offices on the three remaining floors and the basement open for inspection by the crowd. There was not an inch of the county building which escaped the eye of the mob or some component part thereof, it was said.

The selected six returned to the corridor with the information that the negro was not in the jail. However, there was still a lot of skepticism in the crowd, and another group was allowed to satisfy their doubts by a visit through the jail. It was estimated that about 20 members of the mob went through the jail quarters before the crowd was entirely satisfied that Moore, or Respus, was not there.

Crowd Goes to City Jail.

When they were convinced that the negro was not in the county building, the mob thought of the city jail. About 300 members of the crowd moved in a rolling mass of humanity toward the municipal building two blocks away. People on the street stood back for the mob as it made its way to the city hall.

Leaders of the smaller group would not believe officers on duty at police headquarters when they said the negro was not in the city jail. It was necessary to allow some of them to search the jail quarters, but it did not take very long to convince them that their man was not on the top floor of the municipal building.

Visit Fire Station, Also.

The mob seemed determined to get the negro, and somebody got the idea that the firemen might be aiding the sheriff and police in hiding the prisoner. So a few men in the crowd proceeded to the central fire station, where another thorough search was made. This proved to be another water haul, of course.

Information that the negro had been removed to Raleigh was given to the mob, but skepticism still held sway. The press and the authorities were openly accused of faking the facts to protect the negro. It was all a framed up job, several shouted.

Sheriff Stafford and his deputies were denounced for removing the object of the mob's violence. Several called upon the crowd to "remember this when you vote next time." One man told a newspaper reporter that his daughter had told him just before he left home to come to the courthouse, "Daddy, burn him up."

No Weapons Seen.

All the time the mob was milling in and around the county building. If the crowd was armed, it could not be detected. The assumption of the officers on duty at the courthouse was that the weapons intended for the lynching had been left under guard in automobiles which brought the crowd to the city.

About 10:45 o'clock, when the mob had dwindled considerably, Sheriff Stafford and the officers who accompanied him to Raleigh with the prisoner, walked in the south door of the courthouse. The crowd surged toward them with demands to know where the negro was. It was evident that the mob was still skeptical.

Sheriff Stafford told the crowd that the negro had admitted the murder of the child while being removed to Raleigh. The assailant had been placed in the state prison and would be tried in due course of time, the sheriff stated.

Demand Official Receipt.

Somebody voiced the mob's skepticism and demanded that the official receipt for the negro at the prison be shown. Sheriff Stafford good naturedly complied by reading the entire document, which bore the signature of the warden and the seal of the state. However, a few would not be satisfied until they had the paper in their own hands and under their own eyes. Several standing near Sheriff Stafford were allowed this privilege.

Assured that the object of their visit to the courthouse was in Raleigh, the leaders of the mob unhesitatingly told Sheriff Stafford that he had not done the right thing. One especially vociferous individual informed the sheriff that he would have done his duty if he had just put the negro in the county jail and allowed the mob to have him when they demanded him.

The sheriff sensed the feeling of the crowd, and smilingly reminded them that it was as much his sworn duty to protect a criminal as it was to apprehend him. Although there was still some dissatisfaction among the crowd, it was evident that Sheriff Stafford had acted and spoken as one who knows the psychology of the mob.

Gradually the crowd diminished, and shortly after 11 o'clock the last of the mob had sauntered out of the courthouse and vanished in the night without injury or property damage resulting from the invasion.

SHERIFF SAVES SUSPECT FROM HOWLING MOB

Defender

It Turns Out That No Crime Was Done

9-26-31

RALEIGH, N. C., Sept. 25.—(ANP)—The following story of how a man at Kinston came near being lynched for a crime that was never committed was related in the News and Observed (white), Friday.

Chicago

"Raymond [illegible], Negro, probably does not know it yet, but he was on the spot last Sunday morning. He has a half dozen policemen and deputy sheriffs to thank for his safety.

"After Eunice Mae Pollock, 19, had told of being attacked by an unidentified man, nearly a score of officers started a quiet search for the rapist. A crowd of 600 gathered before the girl's home. Most of the members stood about with guns in their hands or followed the officers about, seeking thrills.

"Three suspects were arrested. All were rushed to the Jones county community, in which Miss Pollock lived. The crowd was fooled each time an arrest was made.

"Powell had worked in the section intermittently. A party of citizens quietly set about locating him. Officers hunted him simultaneously. The officers discovered they had competition and realized that the man, against whom there was not a shred of evidence, would probably be taken to the Pollock home and mobbed if he fell into other hands than their own. There was a race. Powell was located at Dover, and it was the officers who found him and hastened to Kinston with him.

The incident was revealed by detectives today, two days after Powell's release, which occurred about the time investigators discovered Miss Pollock's story was unfounded and that she had been assaulted by no one, by her own confession."

Mob Thwarted By Quick Action of Sheriff

[illegible]

10-10-31

Greensboro, N. C.—Quick action by Sheriff Dave Stafford saved Will Moore, 55-year old Negro, from mob violence in Sumner Township.

[illegible]

Moore was charged with having murdered Vera Reynolds, 9, and then setting fire to the dwelling and burnin her body. Evidence pointed to Moore, and after his arrest a pair of blood-stained overalls were found in his home. His shoeprints corresponded to prints between the Reynolds' home and his own.

Sheriff Stafford spirited Moore away to the State's Prison in Raleigh, where he is being held for safe keeping.

1,000 IN MOB SEEK MORON

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md

GREENSBORO, N.C.—With a mob of 1,000 scouring the neighborhood in search of him, Will Moore, who confessed that he killed nine-year-old Vera Leonard, white, and then burned the house to cover up his crime, was rushed to the state prison at Raleigh for safe-keeping.

10-17-31

The man was apprehended when he was found to have a pair of bloody overalls in his possession and was wearing a pair of shoes with U.S. on the bottoms which had led a trail from the scene of the crime to his home.

Moore is said to have confessed that he was under the influence of liquor and when he saw the child alone in the home he had attempted to assault her, but her screams frightened him and he slew her with a piece of wood.

MURDERED GIRL'S HOME MADE HER FUNERAL PYRE

Journal and Guide

Captured, Alleged Slayer Says Devil Got Into Him

10-10-31

RALEIGH, N. C.—"The devil just got into me," is the way Will Moore, 58, also known as Asbury Ripus, explains why he attempted to attack Vera Leonard, 9-year-old white girl of Guilford County, and then later set fire to the house which sheltered her unconscious body last week.

Norfolk, Va.

Moore was rushed to the state prison here for safe-keeping as mob violence was feared by the county officials.

Lacie Crutchfield and Willie Heden arrested in connection with the case, have been taken to the Forsythe County jail in Winston-Salem. Officials said the men had been arrested for investigation, but expressed the opinion, after Moore's confession, that they had no connection with the crime. They will probably be released soon.

The body of the girl was found beaten to death in the ruins of her father's burnt home in township of Sumner last Wednesday morning, and immediately Sheriff D. B. Stafford began getting on the trail of the assailant.

Foot Prints Tell Tale

Footprints made by rubber shoes led officers to the home of Moore, about a half mile from the scene of the burned house, and later similar prints were found near blood stains behind a woodshed in a field close by.

Moore, in confession which he is reported to have made to the officers accompanying him on the motor trip here, said that he grabbed the girl while she was waiting for a bus in front of her home and that he made her go with him to the woodshed back of the house.

Here, he confessed, his intentions were to attack the girl, but she screamed, and he struck her over the head with a piece of wood, rendering her unconscious.

Takes Body to Woods

This done, he started to carry the unconscious body to a patch of woods and leave it there, but later decided to take it back to the house and burn up the building. He was not certain whether the girl was already dead when he wrapped her body in blankets before starting the funeral pyre.

Moore, who said that he was born in Jackson, N. C., said that he returned to the vicinity of the burning house later and loitered around.

Prison officials are now going over their records to find out if the alleged assailant is the same person who escaped from the North Carolina State penitentiary about 13 years ago, after serving 3 years of a sentence for murder.

Express Regret

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Two hundred and fifty persons gathered in the interest of working out a plan of relief for this district, stopped in their diliberations last Thursday to pass unanimously a resolution to express their "deep regret" over the "most brutal murder" committed by Will Moore.

The group also commended the orderliness of the citizenry, and the way the officers "handled a most delicate situation," and extended the sympathy to the parents of Vera Leonard, the dead girl.

About 50 white persons were present.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Pennsylvania.

WILMINGTON, DEL
Journal
JAN 14 1931

EXTRA GUARD ON YOUNG NEGRO, KILLED FARMER

Chester County Officials Fear Violence Against Young Slayer

HAS CONFESSED ATROCIOUS CRIME

To prevent a lynching of William Watkins, young Negro, who has confessed killing his 73-year-old employer in Landenberg township, Pa., Saturday, elaborate preparations were made yesterday.

Watkins now is in the Chester county jail, West Chester, awaiting a hearing. He told police that he killed Howard Harward because the latter would not give him a needed advance in pay.

Feeling ran high in southern Chester county last Saturday when Watkins was arrested by a posse led by County Detective Francis Grubb. The police had to rush Watkins to West Chester because of threats of lynching voiced by friends of the victim.

Indications of outbreak of mob violence Saturday when Watkins will be given a preliminary hearing at Landenberg, led District Attorney Guss to ask for the assistance of a half-dozen State troopers and details of police from several southern Chester county townships.

Watkins is not represented by an attorney. He has given the police no trouble, but they fear that his confession may react against him and stir a mob to an attempt at lynch law.

Sheriff Howard S. Green will be present at the hearing Saturday. He announced yesterday that he would use every effort to make sure that Watkins was tried without extra legal interference.

GUARD PENNSYLVANIA PRISONER TO PREVENT LYNCHING

Birmingham Reporter
1-24-31

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 22.—(By A. N. P.)—William Watkins, a young man of Landenberg township near here, is lodged in jail in Chester County charged with having killed Howard Harward, his seventy-three-year-old employer. It is said that he has confessed to the crime, claiming that he did so because Mr. Harward refused to grant him a needed increase in pay.

Birmingham, Ala

Feeling ran high when the young man was arrested and the police had to rush Watkins to West Chester because of threats of lynching voiced by friends of the victim. District Attorney Guss has asked for the assistance of a half dozen State troopers and details of police from several southern Chester County townships, for the preliminary trial of young Watkins on Saturday.

Guard Pennsy Prisoner to Prevent Lynching

Afro-American
1-24-31

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (ANP) — William Watkins, a young man of Landenberg township near here, is lodged in jail in Chester County charged with having killed Howard Harward, his seventy-three-year-old employer. It is said that he has confessed to the crime, claiming that he did so because Mr. Harward refused to grant him a needed increase in pay.

Baltimore, Md

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

JAN 14 1931

SLAYER BEING GUARDED FROM LYNCHING MOB

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From R. ~~B. Eleazer~~

Sheriff Stops Near Lynching

(Capital News Service)

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 22—Early preparations by the sheriff and his assistants prevented the probable lynching of William Watkins at Landenburg township, Tuesday, after the young man had confessed to murdering his 75-year-old white employer.

Watkins now is in the Chester County jail awaiting a hearing. He told police that he killed Howard Harward because the latter would not give him a needed advance in pay.

Feeling ran high in southern Chester County last Saturday when Watkins was arrested by a posse led by County Detective Francis Grubb. The police had to rush Watkins to West Chester because of threats of lynching voiced by friends of the victim.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented.

Ohio

3448

200 DEPUTIES

Call & Post

HALT OHIO MOB

1-31-31

Sheriff is Killed.

Cleveland, Ohio

BUCYRUS, O., Jan 29 (Special) A mob of several hundred people stood outside the jail here last Saturday where three Ralls brothers awaited trial after Sheriff George Davenport had been killed in the home of the three brothers when he attempted to arrest them as chicken thieves.

Two hundred armed special deputies guarded the jail to prevent any trouble.

It was reported that a mob was forming at Cresline, 12 miles away, for the purpose of advancing into Bucyrus and avenging the murder of the sheriff.

The mayor of Cresline is reported to have searched the homes of Negroes for guns and ammunition.

No attempt, however, has been made to storm the jail where the prisoners are confined.

Elijah Ralls, one of the brothers was killed in an attempt to escape.

Arthur Stuckert took charge as sheriff after the death of Davenport, and handled the situation very skillfully and prevented any riots.

Lynchings-1931
3

Oklahoma

3449

Prevented

TROOPS GUARD NEGRO.

Oklahoma Officer's Slayer Surrounded by Mob of 1,000.

12-26-31

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 25—(UP)—Governor Murray late today called out the national guard units at Watonga and Kingfisher to protect a negro from mob violence.

The negro, Filmore Davis, killed an officer near Watonga today and was reported surrounded by a posse at Cleo Springs.

"I received a report that 1,000 men were forming a mob to lynch the negro and I am taking this precaution to insure him fair treatment," Governor Murray said.

NEW YORK SUN

JUN 26 1931

MURRAY CALLS MILITIA

Oklahoma Lynching Feared as Killer Is Cornered.

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 26 (U.P.).—Threats of clashes between mobs and militia were heard today in Oklahoma as National Guard troops were mobilized after reports at the Governor's office that 1,000 men were beating the brush around Cleo Springs, intent upon capturing and lynching Filmore Davis, a Negro.

Davis killed Under-Sheriff Guy M. Jarvis and wounded Deputy George Gender yesterday when the officers attempted to arrest him near Watonga on a charge of stealing gasoline.

After shooting the officers when they approached his home, Davis escaped in Jarvis's automobile.

Yesterday afternoon reports came from Wagona that a mob was forming and just before midnight reports were that 1,000 men had Davis surrounded in a field near Cleo Springs, sixty-five miles from Wagona. The posse had been organized officially to hunt down the Negro, but threats of violence were reported and it was feared the posse might become a mob the moment Davis was taken. Gov. W. R. Murray ordered two National Guard units of 140 men to proceed from Watonga and Kingfisher and to "insure fair treatment" for Davis at any cost.

NEW YORK
Illustrated News

JUN 26 1931

CALL OUT TROOPS TO FOIL LYNCHING

Oklahoma City, June 25 (U.P.).—Gov. William H. Murray late today called out the National Guard units at Watonga and Kingfisher to save a colored man from lynching. The colored man, Filmore Davis, killed Under-Sheriff Guy M. Jarvis near Watonga today and was reported surrounded by a posse at Cleo Springs.

NEGRO IS SAVED FROM MOB VIOLENCE SUNDAY

Le Flore County

Jake Stake, 24-year-old negro, held on a statutory charge, was brought to the county jail at Poteau Sunday after officers had saved him from possible mob violence at Pine Valley earlier in the day. He is charged with an attempted attack upon a white woman of Pine Valley. 12-24-31

The negro had been placed in the Pine Valley jail early Sunday morning by W. A. Culp, Pine Valley marshal, and Deputy Sheriff Lee Babb. As Babb, Culp, Deputy Carl Wagnon of Talihina and Joe Foster, deputy county attorney, were gathering information concerning the case, word was brought them that a number of men were attempting to break into the jail. When the officers arrived at the jail, members of the mob were filing the jail door lock and the negro inside the jail was screaming and begging for mercy.

Le Flore County

After Foster argued with the men some minutes, leaders of the party agreed to let the prisoner be brought to Poteau. As the negro was being taken to a car one man grabbed at him, but was pushed away by Mr. Foster, and no further demonstration was offered.

Poteau

The negro is alleged to have attacked a 23 year old white girl in her hotel room at 1:30 o'clock Sunday morning. The young woman said that she was awakened by someone in the room. She said the man grabbed her and choked her but that she kicked him and fought loose. The man then fled, and the girl said that she recognized the negro as he ran beneath a light, in the hall.

The negro jumped a fence outside the hotel. Marks in the earth showed that he was wearing boots and that there was a hole in one toe of the boots. The boots, with the hole in the toe, were found in the negro's room by officers.

The negro had worked for a lumber company and about the hotel.

NEAR LYNCHING AT PINE VALLEY

The Poteau News

The coolness of Deputy County Attorney Joe Foster prevented a negro being lynched at Pine Valley last Sunday afternoon. Joe was ably assisted by Justice McAdams, Lee Babb, Will Cupp and Carl Wagnon, who were with him at the time the trouble seemed most likely. 12-24-31

A call was made for the officers to come to the place as quickly as possible, and when they reached there, everything seemed set for an old fashioned lynching bee, lead by substantial citizens of the town. The officers were eating dinner when they heard the negro yell. They rushed to the jail and found that they were trying to break the lock on the door. Mr. Foster got between the men and the jail and made them a quiet talk, telling them there was no need for their acting, and that the culprit would get his just deserts in the court. He finally convinced them that there was no need of a lynching and they prepared to put the negro in the car with the other officers and come to Poteau. As the negro stepped toward the car some fellow gave him a football tackle. Mr. Foster grabbed the fellow by his arm and held him until the negro got in the car, and then Joe Foster, Jr., who had arranged for something like this, by keeping the motor running, shot the gas to it and they left the scene, arriving here with the negro unhurt, but badly scared.

The negro is charged with having entered the room of a young lady who rooms at the hotel in Pine Valley. He attempted to assault her, but she shoved him down and this frightened him so he left the hotel. He was identified by another young lady who was in the next room. The negro has served two short terms in the reform school for various crimes.

Much credit is due the cool headedness of Mr. Foster and the officers who were with him for the way this matter was handled, and the citizens of that town deserve much credit for listening to Mr. Foster's reasoning for right

Lynchings-1931
6
Prevented

Oregon
6

3447

MURDER SUSPECT HEAVILY GUARDED

MEDFORD, Ore., Jan. 24.—(AP)—J. C. Adams, 33, was heavily guarded in a jail cell here tonight as a protection against threats made on his life for the alleged killing of Sam Prescott, traffic officer at Ashland, Oregon.

Prescott was shot to death as he stopped Adams' automobile to question him about ownership papers and a driver's license. Adams was captured an hour later. The district attorney's office announced he had made an oral confession.

Constitution
1-25-31
Atlanta, Ga.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

South Carolina.

Hampton, S. C., Guardian
Wednesday, July [illegible], 1931

WHITE MEN CUT, NEGRO IN JAIL

Prominent Citizens of Estill Sustain Minor Wounds in Argument Saturday

As the result of an argument Saturday night at Estill between a Negro and two prominent white citizens of the community, R. S. Zeigler and Alfred Marshall are suffering from several cuts and Luther Lawton, Negro, charged with the cutting, is in jail in some unrevealed locality, where he was taken early Sunday morning to avoid the possibility of mob violence. Reports Tuesday stated that neither Mr. Marshall or Mr. Zeigler were in a serious condition from the wounds they had received.

Immediately after the slashing of the two white men by Lawton, the Negro was arrested by the marshal of Estill and placed in the guard house. A short time later as rumors of possible mob action began to circulate, the prisoner was removed to the Hampton county jail. A plea from jailer B. F. Dobson to Sheriff C. V. Thomas resulted in the Negro again being moved, this time to a destination not announced by officers. Before being removed from Hampton, Lawton was taken to the office of Dr. M. E. Ellis where a number of bruises and cuts were given attention.

Lawton was removed from Dr. Ellis' office at about two o'clock Sunday morning in the custody of deputy sheriff Terry Padgett of Hampton who upon his return to Hampton later in the day refused to state where the Negro had been taken.

While the cuts and bruises of the Negro were being dressed early Sunday morning several automobiles passed and repassed the residence of Dr. Ellis. After the removal of Lawton they were not again seen. Reports Monday said that some effort had been made in Hampton by persons known not to be residents of Hampton to discover the whereabouts of Lawton.

GREENWOOD, S. C.
INDEX JOURNAL

SEP 27 1931

GUARDS UNION PRISONERS

UNION, S. C., Sept. 26. —(AP)— Two negroes sentenced in court here today were rushed to the state penitentiary at Columbia under military guard tonight when local officers reported they had received reports of a plot to take the negroes from the jail and lynch them.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 26.—(AP)—Gov. Ibra C. Blackwood tonight authorized the calling out of National guardsmen at Union for the protection of two negroes and one white prisoner sentenced to prison there today.

Advices from Union were that mob violence had been threatened against the prisoners. Following Governor Blackwood's order, the report said, the Union unit of the national guard was ordered out to furnish protection.

The three prisoners reported threatened were:

Wade Moore, negro, convicted of manslaughter in the slaying on September 14 of Aubrey Wilburn, white overseer of a Lockhart cotton plantation, and given a ten-year sentence.

"Son" Brannon, negro, convicted of attempted assault on a white woman and sentenced to three years in prison.

Bill Crosby, white, charged with murdering his father, J. E. Crosby, a Spanish American war veteran from whom a plea of manslaughter was accepted. He was given 15 years in prison.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
STATE

SEP 27 1931

UNION NEGROES RUSHED TO PEN

Guardsmen Called to Aid in Safe Removal.

THWART LYNCHING

Governor Acts on Tip of Plot Against Wade Moore and Sam Brannon.

Special to The State.

Union, Sept. 26.—Two Negroes sentenced in court here today were rushed to the state penitentiary at Columbia tonight under military guard when word leaked out of a plot to take them out of the Union jail and lynch them. The transfer of the Negroes came on the order of Governor Ibra C. Blackwood, who through Gen. James C. Dozier called upon Capt. H. M. Arthur and as many members of Company E, National Guard, as might be necessary to aid Sheriff J. C. Greer in removing the prisoners safely to Columbia.

The Negroes are Wade Moore, convicted of manslaughter in connection with the slaying of Aubrey Wilburn, white farm overseer of near Lockhart, and Sam "Son" Brannon convicted of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature on the person of a white woman. Moore was tried on a charge of murder and Brannon on a charge of attempted assault. Moore's sentence was for ten years and Brannon's for three years.

It is alleged that the plot to take the punishment of the two Negroes upon themselves was made by a small clique who resented the fact that the Negroes received lighter sentences than Bill Crosby, young white man who pled guilty of manslaughter in connection with the slaying of his father, J. H. Crosby, and who was sentenced to serve 15 years in the penitentiary.

There was no demonstration here this afternoon or early tonight and when officers called at the jpail to get the prisoners and rush them to safety there was no evidences of any mob. Persons in touch with the situation expressed the belief that the plot was to be enacted in silence either late in the night or in the early morning hours.

The Negroes in the custody of Sheriff Greer, has deputies and a detachment of National Guardsmen left Union jail about 11:30 o'clock. The Guardsmen were under the command of Captain Arthur.

The same troop of Guardsmen that was ordered on duty tonight was called out the day Wilburn was slain to earch for Moore and protect him from possible violence. A mob of 1,000 men that collected soon after the slaying soon dispersed when the Guardsmen went on duty.

The young Negro eluded the Guardsmen and officers searching for him and a few days later was arrested at Spartanburg. He claimed he shot Wilburn in self defense.

Governor Blackwood was informed last night about 10:30 o'clock that there was possibility of trouble at Union, and that a plot underway to lynch two men in the jail in that city.

The governor at once got in touch with James C. Dozier, adjutant general and apprised him of the situation, instructing him to have the National Guard unit at Union give the sheriff whatever assistance was necessary in bringing the men to the penitentiary in Columbia for safekeeping.

General Dozier was soon in communication with Capt. Henry M. Arthur at Union and told him to call out as many men as was needed to give adequate protection to the prisoners, the Guardsmen to accompany the sheriff and the prisoners to Columbia.

STATE MILITIA TAKE PRISONERS FROM MOB ZONE

Informer

Columbia, S. C.—(ANP)—Fifteen members of the South Carolina State militia escorted Sam Brannon and Wade Moore from Union South Carolina, to the state prison here Tuesday after they had been convicted of assault and battery and manslaughter, respectively. 10-10-31

This action was taken when Governor Blackwood received information that a plan was on foot to remove the men from the Union jail and lynch them. The chief executive immediately got in touch with the general of the national guard unit and ordered him to send a detachment of troops to protect the prisoners.

Moore was found guilty of manslaughter in connection with the killing of a white man, Aubrey Wilburn, an overseer of a cotton planation. The defendant admitted that he had killed the white man but claimed that he had done so in self-defense. After listening to the testimony the jury decided that he was guilty and the judge sentenced him to ten years in prison.

Much interest was manifested in the case and for the second time since the killing Moore found himself protected by troopers. Immediately following the killing Governor Blackwood ordered the troopers to supervise the search for Moore in rder to prevent a lynching. Moore was successful in eluding the posse and the mob and while they were searching for him walked into the county jail and surrendered.

Brannon was found guilty of assault and battery of "a grave nature" upon a white woman. Feeling was high against him and the sentence of three years in the prison served to intensify this feeling.

According to reports received at the governor's mansion, whites in the town were incensed because the two defendants were given such light sentences and a white man charged with the murder of his father received a 15 year sentence. While no open threats were made it was understood that a "quiet lynching" was to be staged Tuesday night but the appearance of the troops caused the plan to go awry.

NEW YORK TIMES

SEP 28 1931

PRISON AVERTS LYNCHING.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 27 (AP).—Two Negroes and a white man were brought to the State Penitentiary early today after Sheriff J. C. Greer of Union had received reports that an effort would be made to lynch them if they were kept in the Union County Jail. Fifteen National Guardsmen, ordered out by Governor Blackwood, accompanied the Sheriff and deputies.

The three were sentenced yesterday, Wade Moore, a Negro, to ten years on conviction of manslaughter in the slaying of Aubrey Wilburn, a white farmer; Son Brannon, a Negro, three years for attempted attack on a white woman, and Bill Crosby, white, fifteen years for manslaughter in the slaying of his father.

NEW YORK
GRAPHIC

NOV 16 1931

LYNCHING FOILED

York, S. C., Nov. 15 (UP).—Police arrested John White, 16-year-old Negro, today, on a charge of making improper advances to a white girl, while a group of armed citizens beat the countryside searching for him. Police declared their action averted a probable lynching.

3450

TROOPS GUARD PRISONERS AND PREVENT LYNCHING

Defender

Chicago, Ill

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 9.—Fifteen members of the South Carolina state militia escorted Sam Brannon and Wade Moore from Union, S. C., to the state prison here Tuesday after they had been convicted of assault and battery and manslaughter respectively.

10-10-31

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Lynchings-1931 & Prevented.

South Carolina

3451

Orangeb'g, S. C. Times & Democrat
Tuesday, January 6, 1931

NEGRO SUSPECT RUSHED TO PEN

Gov. Richards Acts To Thwart Lynching Movement

Columbia, Jan. 5—(AP)—Quick action by Governor Richards in rushing Tillman Poozer, negro, from the Lexington county jail in Lexington to the State Penitentiary here was credited today with having averted a possible lynching yesterday.

The negro is held as a suspect in the brutal murder of C. D. Mills, night watchman at a lumber plant in Cayce, a Columbia suburb. The watchman was discovered Saturday night, his head crushed, and $91 missing.

Arrested yesterday after bloodstans were found on his clothing, Poozer was taken to Lexington by Sheriff H. Cromer Oswald. Cayce is in Lexington county.

Governor Richards said today he was advised last night that a movement was underway to storm the Lexington jail and lynch the negro.

He at once ordered Sheriff Oswald to transfer Poozer to Columbia, and sent seven of his detectives to aid him if there was any trouble. The sheriff discounted the idea of a lynching, Governor Richards said.

Sumter, S. C., Item
Friday, January 9, 1931

PRISONERS SAVED FROM LEXINGTON MOB

Alleged Attempt to Lynch Two Men Charged With Murder Fraustrated

Columbia, Jan. 9.—(AP)—For the second time in less than a week, prisoners held in the Lexington county jail at Lexington have been spirited away and rushed to the state penitentiary here for safe keeping because of lynch threats.

Governor Richards said today he had ordered W. O. Seamore, of Carlton, Ga., and P. F. Matthews, of Bennettsville, brought to Columbia when he was advised a crowd was preparing to storm the jail last night.

The men were arrested after B. W. Hendrix, merchant, had been shot and killed Monday night when he resisted attempts of four bandits to rob him.

Lexington county officers formed a flying wedge from the jail and rushed their two prisoners to automobiles, driving hastily to Columbia, twelve miles distant.

Earlier in the week, Tillman Poozer, negro, arrested as a suspect in the axe-slaying of C. D. Mills, Cayce night watchman, was brought to the penitentiary when the governor was advised indications were that an attempt to lynch him would be made.

Union, S. C., Times
Friday, January 9, 1931

Prisoners Rushed To State Pen Avoid Lynching

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 9.—(AP)—For the second time in less than a week, prisoners held in the Lexington county jail at Lexington have been spirited away and rushed to the state penitentiary here for safe keeping because of lynch threats.

Governor Richards said today he had ordered W. O. Seamore, of Carlton, Ga., and P. F. Matthews of Bennettsville, brought to Columbia when he was advised a crowd was preparing to storm the jail last night.

The men were arrested after B. W. Hendrix, merchant, had been shot and killed Monday night when he resisted attempts of four bandits to rob him.

Lexington couny officers formed a flying wedge from the jail and rushed their two prisoners to automobiles, driving hastily to Columbia, twelve miles distant.

Earlier in the week, Tillman Poozer, negro, arrested as a suspect in the axe slaying of C. D. Mills, Cayce night watchman, was brought to the penitentiary when the governor was advised indications were that an attempt to lynch him would be made.

CAROLINA GUARDSMEN PROTECT SIX NEGROES

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 20.—(AP)—Sixty national guardsmen early today escorted six negroes from the state penitentiary here to Lexington, 12 miles from Columbia, to face charges of murder.

Constitution 1-21-31

The national guard company, a machine gun outfit, also carried hand grenades and rifles as part of its equipment.

1-22-31

Five of the six negroes, held directly accountable for two murders and listed as suspects in several other unsolved killings, were arrested in Bluefield, W. Va. The [illegible] is charged with slaying a local night watchman.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Friday, January 9, 1931

FEAR LYNCHING

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 9.—(AP)—W. O. Seamore, of Carlton, Ga., and P. F. Matthews, of Bennettsville, S. C., were brought to the State penitentiary here early today upon orders of Governor John G. Richards, who said he had been advised of threats to lynch the men.

Seamore and Matthews were in the Lexington county jail, held in connection with the slaying Monday night of B. W. Hendrix, merchant, in a hold-up of his country store.

Sumter, S. C., Item
Saturday, January 31, 1931

LYNCHING THREATENED AT GEORGETOWN

Dan Winstead and Bun Martin Being Rushed to Penitentiary For Safety

Columbia, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Two men held for running down with their automobile and killing David W. Young and seriously injuring his wife near Georgetown Sunday night were being rushed to state penitentiary here today for safekeeping, Governor Blackwood was informed today. They are Dan Winstead and "Bun" Martin.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 31.—(AP)—Reports that efforts would be made to lynch Dan Winstead, prominent Conway furniture store owner, and Bun Martin, one of Winstead's employes, both held for running down and killing David W. Young near Georgetown, today caused Sheriff H. B. Bruorton, of Georgetown, to bring them here and place them in the state penitentiary for safe keeping.

The men have been under arrest since early this week, and Sheriff Bruorton said he was reliably informed action was being planned to lynch them.

The necessary papers to have them admitted in the penitentiary were procured from Governor Blackwood this afternoon.

Sheriff Bruorton said he encountered no opposition when he left Georgetown about 1 o'clock this morning.

"I didn't want to wait until it was too late," he told reporters in the governor's office, "so I brought them here just as soon as I could."

Young was killed and his wife seriously injured when struck by an automobile as they were walking on a highway near their farm. They were a short distance from the home of Young's father, John Young, when the accident occurred, and the father discovered his son dead and his daughter-in-law injured. A three-months-old baby Mrs. Young was carrying was uninjured.

The father saw the driver of the automobile, who made his escape, driving away rapidly when he learned of the fatality.

Winstead and Martin were arrested in Conway, and Martin later admitted, Sheriff Bruorton said, he was driving the automobile at the time of the accident.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
Tuesday, January 20, 1931

Militia Guards Negroes On Trial

S. C. Company Ordered Out To Guard Lexington Court House While Six Are Tried For Murder.

COLUMBIA, S. C, Jan. 20—(AP)—Sixty national guardsmen, under command of Col. Rufus Grant, assistant adjutant general, were ordered out early today to protect six negroes who were being removed from the state penitentiary to Lexington, where they are to be arraigned today for murder.

The New Brookland machine gun company mobilized at the state penitentiary shortly after dawn.

Under orders of Governor Richards, who today leaves the office of chief executive, the company formed an escort for the negroes.

Five of the negroes are held for murder of B. M. Hendrix Lexington county merchant, who was shot and killed when he resisted a holdup. They are John Ackwright, Ernest Thomas, James Hickman, Robert Eldridge and George Bird. Ackwright has confessed he killed the merchant, officers say.

The other negro, Tillman Boozer, has confessed he crushed the skull of C. D. Mills, Cayce night watchman, in order to rob him.

Five of the negroes were captured after a chase which extended to Asheville and on to Bluefield, W. Va. Boozer was arrested near Columbia.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Tuesday, January 20, 1931

GUARDS ARE SENT TO KEEP ORDER AT MURDER TRIAL

Sixty National Guardsmen Heavily Armed Sent to Guard Over Negroes

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 20.—(AP) Sixty national guardsmen early today escorted six negroes from the state penitentiary here to Lexington, 12 miles from Columbia, to face charges of murder.

The national guard company, a machine gunt outfit, also carried hand grenades and rifles as part of its equipment.

The men were ordered out by Gov. John G. Richards, who retires from office today, when threats of lynchings reached his office.

Five of the six negroes, held directly accountable for two murders and listed as suspects in several other unsolved killings, were arrested in Bluefield, W. Va. The sixth is charged with slaying a local night watchman.

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
Saturday, January 31, 1931

RUMOR OF LYNCHING BEE IN COLUMBIA

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 31 (AP)—Reports that efforts would be made to lynch Dan Winstead, Conway furniture dealer, and Bun Martin, one of Winstead's employes, both held for running down and killing David W. Young, a farmer, near Georgetown, today caused Sheriff H. B. Bruorton, of Georgetown, to bring them here and place them in the state penitentiary for safe keeping.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
Tuesday, January 20. 19

Guard Negroes Going To Trial

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 20.—(AP)—Sixty national guardsmen early today escorted six negroes from the state penitentiary here to Lexington, 12 miles from Columbia, to face charges of murder.

The national guard company, a machine gun outfit, also carried hand grenades and rifles as part of its equipment.

The men were ordered out by Gov. John G. Richards, who retires from office today, when threats of lynching reached his office.

Five of the six negroes, held directly accountable for two murders, and listed as suspects in several other unsolved killings, were arrested by Asheville, N. C., officers in Bluefield, W. Va. The sixth is charged with slaying a local night watchman.

NEW YORK AMERICAN

JAN 21 1931

TroopsGuard Negroes Accused of Murder

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 20 (AP).—Sixty National Guardsmen today escorted six negroes from the State Penitentiary here to Lexington, twelve miles away, to face charges of murder.

The National Guard company, a machine gun outfit, carrying hand grenades and rifles, was ordered out by Governor Richards when threats of lynching reached his office.

HE WENT TO PRISON IN FINE STYLE

Courier 2-21-31

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 19.—(ANP)—Clyde Hawthorne, age 27, arrived here at the state prison in a taxicab Tuesday morning, accompanied by Sheriff Clamp of Anderson and three deputies, after he had been convicted of the murder of Julian Pennell, a white man, and George Anderson, a 20 year old youth.

The style in which Hawthorne was escorted to the prison, however, was not for the comfort of the prisoner but for his safety, the officers stated. Hawthorne had been convicted of the murder, with a recommendation for mercy, and the judge had indicated that he would sentence him to life imprisonment.

Feeling was high against him and officers, when the verdict was read, rushed him from the courtroom ostensibly to return him to the county jail. Enroute to the jail, a taxicab was hailed and the prisoner placed in it and was brought here while the Anderson citizens were laboring under the belief that he had been transferred to the Anderson jail.

Pennell was a member of a prominent white family. He was shot and killed when he and nine other young white men attended a "hot supper" given in the Negro section. The white witnesses, however, testified that they were simply looking on when thes hooting started. The second bullet struck Pennell and he fell to the floor mortally wounded.

Hawthorne declared on the witness stand that he had fired the shot but did not shoot at the white man. A free for all fight started and he was the main object of attack. He further testified that some shouted, "There he goes. Kill him," as he emerged from the melee. He fired at the group of pursuers and shot the white man.

Fear of mob violence has been felt ever since he was arrested and when he was given a life sentence instead of death, officers deemed it expedient to remove him as quickly as possible to the prison. He began his life term Tuesday morning.

Anderson, S. C. Independent
Sunday, February 1, 1931

Pair Charged With Running Down Man and Wife are Placed in Pen.—Man Was Killed.—Wife Seriously Injured.

COLUMBIA, Jan. 31.—AP—Lynching threats today caused Sheriff H. D. Bruorton of Georgetown to rush two Conway men held in connection with the killing of David W. Young from the Georgetown jail to the state pen for safekeeping.

The men are Dan Winstead, prominent furniture store owner, and "Bún" Martin, an employe.

They are charged with the murder of Young, who was run down and killed by an automobile last Sunday as he was walking with his wife and baby on the highway near his mother's home.

Mrs. Young was seriously injured but the baby, 3 months old, was not hurt.

Sheriff Bruorton said he had heard of the proposed lynching of the men from several quarters and decided to bring them to Columbia before it was too late.

Necessary for their admittance to the pen was signed this afternoon by Governor Blackwood.

Winstead and Martin were arrested Monday in Conway after a coroner's inqust had charged them with murder.

Martin later admitted the sheriff said, that he was driving the automobile. After striking Young and his wife, the drived stopped the auto to fix his headlight and the father of the dead man, John having heard the screams, came to investigate.

When it was discovered the man was dead, the driver of the automobile hurried away. The sheriff said a handle of the auto door was knocked off and later was found to correspond with the handles on Winstead's auto, one of which was missing.

NEW YORK SUN

SEP 14 1931

South Carolina Troops Out To Prevent Lynching

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 14 (A. P.).—A deputy sheriff of Union county reported to Gov. Blackwood today that a mob of 400 men was seeking Wade Moore, a Negro, accused of killing a white man named Aubrey Wilburn, at Lockhart, near there early today.

Gov. Blackwood ordered out a company of State troops and summoned fifteen State constables to proceed at once to the scene.

S.C. MOB 1000 STRONG; TROOPS CALLED OUT

Afro-American

SPARTANBURG, S.C.—For killing a white man who came to his house with a shot-gun in his hand to kill him, Wade Moore was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary.

Baltimore, Md

Before his arrest, he was saved from a mob of 1,000 whites who sought to lynch him, and tracked him through swamps. Ofttimes Moore was close enough to the would-be lynchers to hear them talk.

11-10-31

Moore fled to the home of his father-in-law, John Herndon, where constables arrested him and took him to Columbia for safe keeping.

Moore was working in a field Monday of last week near the the home of Aubrey Wilburn (white), when Wilburn came to him and scolded him for being late, cursed him, and ordered him to remain there until he returned.

"I'll be back, you wait here," Wilburn was quoted as saying.

As soon as Wilburn was out of sight, Moore said he went to his home and was inside when he heard the overseer call. Taking his gun, Moore opened the door and as Wilburn raised his gun, he (Moore) fired.

In Woods all Week

Moore said he had spent the entire time since the shooting in woods and fields, but that early Friday, he was near Carlisle, some 40 miles from Spartanburg, and had traveled a day and night in reaching his father-in-law's home.

Troops Out

Troops were called out for the trial of Moore.

The mob also wanted Bill Crosby, white, who killed his dad, a Spanish War veteran (the drunken father had tried to pet the son's sweetheart), and Samuel Brannon was sentenced to three years for an alleged "assault" upon a white woman.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

3452

Tennessee

SHERIFF'S WIFE STOPS LYNCHING

Constitution

4-19-31

Dares Mob To Attack. Male Officers Give Up Man to Crowd.

Atlanta, Ga.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 18.—(AP) West Tennessee mobs tried three times within 18 hours to lynch negroes, and one succeeded the third time.

George Smith, 18, accused of attempting to assault a white girl, was hanged from a tree in Obion county courthouse yard at Union City this afternoon while hundreds thronged the grounds.

Another negro was saved from a smaller mob at Huntingdon, in Carroll county, this morning by a sheriff's wife, who told the leaders, "You can shoot me down if you want to, but you can't run anything like that over me."

Henry Wanford, charged with wounding a Humboldt (Tenn.) officer, had been rushed to Huntingdon from Trenton (Tenn.) jail, which a mob searched last night. He was taken to another jail today.

Mrs. J. C. Butler, 44, wife of the Carroll county sheriff, told of balking efforts to seize Wauford. Unarmed, she talked to the mob behind a locked door and persuaded the crowd to leave.

"Mr. Butler hid out in the dining room with the keys," she related. "I told them the sheriff was away and they couldn't get to the negro anyhow.

"It was awful for a while. The cars were parked around the jail so nobody could leave. They came back once after going away from the door, and I told them they could shoot me down, but they couldn't run anything like that over me."

Mrs. Butler's two daughters, Margaret, 20, and Maxine, 16, remained with her, she said, and were right there ready to do anything they could.

Union City officers said Smith denied the attempt of assault, and had not been identified definitely as her attacker.

The girl's screams brought her father to her bedroom last night and he frightened away a negro who had choked her and warned her to remain quiet.

Sheriff J. D. Hubbs and Deputy Sheriff J. F. Holloway said the Union City mob overpowered them and other officers, smashed the jail door, seized Smith and dragged him to a tree 75 feet from

Constitution

"We did all we could to protect the negro," Holloway said, "but we didn't want to take his place." He said he saw no guns. Smith's body was cut down 45 minutes later and was placed in a mortuary.

4-19-31

"I doubt it," said Chief Deputy Sheriff Luther Johnson, of Union City, when asked whether any investigation or arrests would be made.

Atlanta Ga.

Valdosta, Ga. Times
Saturday, April 18, 1931

OUTWITS MOB; SAVES NEGRO

Wife of Sheriff in Tennessee Town Proves Too Smart For Mob of Lnchers

Huntingdon, Tenn., April 18.—(AP)—Mrs. J. C. Butler, 44, wife of the Carroll county sheriff, outwitted a mob early this morning and prevented an attempt to storm the jail here and lynch Henry Mauford, negro accused of shooting an officer at Humboldt, Tenn.

The negro, brought here shortly before another mob stormed the Trenton, Tenn., jail last night, was taken to another and undisclosed jail after Mrs. Butler convinced a crowd of between 25 and 40 men that "you can't run anything like that over me."

Mrs. Butler said she and Sheriff Butler expected the attempt and were prepared. He hid with the keys and she, unarmed, met the mob.

"I was waiting for them when the cars drove up this morning," she said. 'They were mighty nice about it and didn't come in. I begged them to leave and told them they couldn't try to run anything like that over me.

"I told them the sheriff had gone out in the country and I didn't have the keys."

Night Marshal V. H. Pierce was wounded critically during an exchange of shots with the negro, who Pierce said was surprised in the act of robbing a Humboldt cafe.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
Saturday, April 18, 1931

Sheriff's Wife Outwits Mob

Mrs. J. C. Butler, At Humboldt, Tenn., Jail Stands Off Crowd And Saves Life Of Negro.

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., April 18.—(AP)—Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the sheriff of Carroll county, outwitted a mob early today and prevented an attempt to storm the jail here and lynch Henry Mauford, a negro, accused of shooting an officer at Humboldt, Tenn.

The negro, brought here shortly before another mob stormed the jail at Trenton, Tenn., last night in search of him, was hurried from Huntingdon to an undisclosed jail after Mrs. Butler told a crowd of men that "you can't run anything like that over me."

She said she and Sheriff Butler expected the attempt and were prepared. He hid with the keys and she, unarmed, met the mob.

"Mr. Butler hid out in the dining room with the keys," she said. "I was waiting for them when the cars drove up this morning.

"They were mighty nice about it and did not come in. I begged them to leave and told them they couldn't try to run anything like that over me.

"I told them the sheriff had gone out in the country and I didn't have the keys."

Mrs. Butler, the sheriff and two daughters, Margaret, 20, and Maxine, 16, live at the jail.

The girls were right there with me and ready to do anything they could," Mrs. Butler added.

She said none of the mob showed guns and none was masked. She recognized none of them.

The officer, Night Marshal V. H. Pierce, was wounded critically during an exchange of shots with the negro, who Pierce said was found robbing a Humboldt cafe. The negro, also wounded, fled on a freight train and was captured at Jackson, Tenn., after wounding another officer there.

NEW YORK TIMES

APR 19 1931

SHERIFF'S WIFE BALKS TENNESSEE LYNCHING

Turns Back Mob Seeking Negro at Jail, Saying 'You Can't Run Anything Like That Over Me.'

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., April 18 (AP).—Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the Sheriff of Carroll County, outwitted a mob early today and prevented an attempt to storm the jail here and lynch Henry Mauford, a Negro, accused of shooting an officer at Humboldt, Tenn.

The Negro, brought here just before another mob stormed the jail at Trenton, Tenn., last night in search of him, was hurried from Huntingdon to an undisclosed jail after Mrs. Butler told a crowd of men that "you can't run anything like that over me."

She said she and Sheriff Butler expected the attempt and were prepared. He hid with the keys and she, unarmed, met the mob.

"Mr. Butler hid out in the dining room with the keys," she said. "I was waiting for them when the cars drove up this morning.

"They were mighty nice about it and did not come in. I begged them to leave and told them they couldn't try to run anything like that over me.

"I told them the Sheriff had gone out in the county and I didn't have the keys."

Mrs. Butler, the Sheriff and two daughters, Margaret, 20, and Maxine, 16, live at the jail. She said none of the mob showed guns and none was masked. She recognized none of them.

Night Marshal V. H. Pierge was wounded critically during an exchange of shots with the Negro, who, Pierce said, was found robbing a Humboldt café. The Negro, also wounded, fled on a freight train and was captured at Jackson, Tenn., after wounding another officer there.

NEW YORK TELEGRAM

APR 20 1931

ONE WOMAN AND A MOB.

A COURAGEOUS woman last Saturday saved a Negro from a mob in Tennessee, while in a nearby town another Negro was taken from the jail and hanged in the courthouse yard.

The sheriff's wife, who saved the Negro, saved justice.

While we wish there were more like her, neither Tennessee nor any other State should have to depend upon lone women to avert the stigma of mob violence.

There should be a federal statute outlawing lynching, and federal enforcement.

The Republican party's platform of 1928 said:—

"We renew our recommendation that the Congress enact at the earliest possible date a federal anti-lynching law so that the full influence of the federal government may be wielded to exterminate this hideous crime."

In an official document issued recently by the Republican National Committee, the party's platform pledges are listed in one column and in a parallel column is told what has been done to fulfil each of them. Beside the lynching plank is a blank space.

Yet President Hoover said: — "Platform pledges must not be empty gestures."

This should be remembered by the Republican spokesmen now barnstorming the South.

Meanwhile, what do the Democrats propose to do about the national disgrace of lynching?

SHERIFF'S WIFE FOILS WOULD-BE LYNCHERS

Commercial Appeal

Mob Thwarted by Woman at Huntingdon Jail.

4-19-31

Memphis, Tenn.

3452

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., April 18.—The cleverness of a sheriff's wife saved a negro from possible lynching here early this morning.

Confronted by a mob which was seeking Henry Wauford, said to have confessed shooting Night Patrolman V. L. Pearce of Humboldt during a holdup, Mrs. J. C. Butler talked to them behind locked doors at the Carroll County jail here and persuaded them to leave.

Wauford had been brought here by Sheriff C. A. Bradshaw from Trenton when he learned that efforts would be made to lynch the negro. The mob was foiled last night when search of the Trenton jail failed to reveal the prisoner.

Mrs. Butler told the crowd this morning that her husband was away with the keys and that "they couldn't get the negro, anyway." At the time she was talking to the crowd the sheriff was hiding out in the dining room.

"It was awful for a while," she said. "The cars were parked around the jail so nobody could leave. They came back once after going away from the door and I told them they could shoot me down, but they couldn't run anything like that over me."

Mrs. Butler's two daughters Margaret, 20, and Maxine, 16, remained with her, she said, and "were right there ready to do anything they could."

Wauford was carried to another unnamed jail after the mob left here.

Chattanooga, Tenn.
NEWS
APR 20 1931

Two Mobs

Possibly women would make the best sheriffs, after all.

Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the Carroll county sheriff, prevented a lynching at Huntington Saturday.

Sheriff Jack Hubbs, of Obion county, not far from Huntington, looked on while a mob took a negro from him and hanged him in the courthouse yard at Union City. Tennessee's record for abstaining from the crime of lynching in the past again was blotted.

Mrs. Butler told how she averted a lynching. Her husband hid with the keys, while she met and faced the mob.

As the forty men demanded the prisoner she told them "you can't put anything like that over on me." And she added, "You will get him over my dead body." The mob dispersed.

At Union City, Sheriff Hubbs seems not to have offered much fight. Most of the lynchings in the South are due to spineless sheriffs, who refuse to protect their prisoners.

Women and children were in the throng which gathered in the Union City courthouse yard and "they cheered wildly" when a young negro accused of assault, but not positively identified, was hanged.

There is pending a bill in the Tennessee legislature to punish peace officers who turn their prisoners over to bloodthirsty mobs. We regret that the bill is not now a law.

ASSAILANT IN NASHVILLE

Negro Who Shot Humboldt Officer Safe From Mob

Commercial Appeal

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 19.—(AP)—Saved twice from mob threats, once through the efforts of a sheriff's wife, Henry Wauford, negro, charged with wounding a Humboldt officer, was in the county jail here tonight for safe keeping.

4-20-31

A small crowd gathered at the jail at Huntingdon, in Carroll County, yesterday morning, bent upon getting the negro, but Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the sheriff, pleaded with the leaders and the crowd dispersed. The negro had been taken to Huntingdon from the Trenton jail, which a group of men searched friday night. The prisoner later was taken to the Lexington jail and brought here when reports of another mob prevailed.

Memphis, Tenn.

Wauford is charged with wounding Night Marshal V. L. Pearce of Humboldt, who surprised him as he was attempting to rob a cafe. Pearce is recovering in a hospital. The negro also was wounded. He was captured at Jackson. Sheriff Dorsey Stewart of Lexington brought Wauford to Nashville.

RUSH NEGRO SLAYER HERE AS SAFEGUARD

Commercial Appeal 2-20-31

Bolivar Farmer Gun Victim of Morning Argument

Memphis, Tenn.

With the walls of the county jail between him and the mob that he believed was going to lynch him, Will Morgan, negro, yesterday confessed the murder of Ben Saddler, plantation manager of Bolivar, Tenn., whom he shot to death following a quarrel Monday morning in a Bolivar cattle barn.

The negro surrendered to a Whiteville farmer early yesterday morning after Sheriff L. H. Nelms, of Bolivar, and a posse of 250 men had just passed him. Sheriff Nelms, after taking the confession in the present of Miss Lena Bailey, secretary to Sheriff Bacon, announced that Morgan will remain here for safe keeping until the trial.

"I don't expect any mob violence, but I don't feel that I should take any chances," he said. "Feeling is very much aroused because Mr. Saddler was known as a high class citizen."

Mr. Saddler, native of Whiteville, was manager of the J. W. Jones plantation, where Morgan worked as a share cropper. Ill feeling had existed between the two for several days prior to the shooting.

"I told Mr. Jones I couldn't get along with Mr. Saddler and that I wanted to quit," said Morgan. "But Mr. Jones told me to go on back to work. Yesterday morning, early, I was currying a mule in the barn when Mr. Saddler came in. He struck at me with a singletree and I shot twice and ran."

Morgan told of hiding in the swamps near Whiteville for hours as the posse ranged past him.

"Once I was in a tree, hugging the trunk, when they went by underneath me," he said. "In the afternoon I was lying flat on my back in a stubble field and one of the men almost stepped on me."

The negro was hurried here following his surrender at 5 o'clock yesterday morning and confessed 30 minutes after he arrived. He said he wanted to surrender but was afraid of the mob.

NEGRO RUSHED AWAY TO KEEP OFF LYNCHERS

Memphis, Tenn.—(ANP)—Will Morgan, alleged slayer of a white plantation manager at Bolivar, Tennessee, was rushed here early Wednesday morning and placed in the Shelby County jail for safekeeping.

The killing occurred Tuesday morning when Morgan and the white man, Ben Saddler, engaged in a fight. In confessing to the crime, Morgan stated: "Mr. Saddler had been abusing me for several days and Monday I went to Mr. Jones, the owner, and told him I could not get along with Mr. Saddler and that I wanted to quit. He told me to go on back to work. Tuesday morning I was currying a mule when Mr. Saddler came in. He cursed me and struck at me with a singletree, and I shot twice and ran."

Following the shooting of the white man, for twelve hours, a mob of more than 200 men scoured the country in quest of Morgan. He told of how during the night the mob had passed underneath a tree in which he was hiding and how at another time as he was laying in a stubble field one of the men almost stepped on him.

While members of the mob and officers were searching for him, Morgan went to a white farmer's home and surrendered. The farmer quietly notified the officers and Morgan was brought here immediately. "I was not certain that there would have been mob violence," said Sheriff Nelms who brought the prisoner here, "but I did not want to take any chance, because feeling was running high against Morgan."

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
Monday, June 1, 1931

GUARDSMEN PROTECT TENNESSEE NEGRO

Tiptonville, Tenn., June 1. (AP)—A company of national guardsmen patrolled the streets about the Lake county court house today and a machine gun was mounted on the court house steps as a precautionary measure in preparation for the trial of Dave Smith, farmer, charged with having attacked a ten-year-old girl.

The guardsmen were ordered here at the request of Sheriff Damon Headdon.

Smith is alleged to have kidnaped the girl and held her prisoner several hours.

TROOPS GUARD SUSPECT

Commercial Appeal

Farmer Held in Lake County Jail on Assault Charge.

TIPTONVILLE, Tenn., June 1.—(AP)—Dave Smith, a farmer, was held in the Lake County jail here tonight under guard of state troops to await trial tomorrow on an indictment charging him with an attack on a 10-year-old girl. Smith has denied the charge.

6-2-31

The indictment was returned at a special session of the county grand jury today. The trial was set for tomorrow afternoon.

A company of state militia was ordered here from Jackson at the request of Sheriff Damon Headdon because of the intense feeling aroused by the attack on the child who was kidnaped and held prisoner several hours.

Memphis Tenn.

Shortly after the arrest of Smith a crowd of about 100 men, some armed, gathered about the county jail but, in anticipation of a possible mob demonstration, Sheriff Headdon had transferred Smith to the Shelby County jail at Memphis. He was returned here last night.

No demonstration was attempted today.

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ing the hearing but no demonstration was attempted.

Montgomery Ala.

Smith pleaded not guilty when he was arraigned yesterday but changed the plea to guilty today. The evidence was confined to the presentation of facts to govern the jury in fixing the punishment. The accused man said he had been drinking and remembered nothing of what happened from the time the child was kidnaped and taken to a woods until the following morning. Testimony also was submitted in support of the defense contention that he was of sub-standard mentality.

HONOR SHERIFF'S WIFE

Huntingdon Woman to Get Medal for Halting Mob at Jail.

HOLLOW ROCK, Tenn., Oct. 1.—Arrangements are being made for formal honors to be paid Mrs. J. Clinton Butler, wife of the Carroll County sheriff, who prevented a mob from securin ga negro from the jail who had shot the night marshal at Humboldt.

A public meeting will be held in the Huntingdon High School auditorium Saturday afternoon, Oct. 27, at which time Mrs. Butler will be awarded a gold medal by the Inter-Racial Association with her name and the proper inscription engraved on it.

Dr. Clark of Nashville, J. Sam Johnson, and Huntingdon and Jim Button, Oakdale, will appear on the program.

Mrs. Butler refused to give her prisoner to the mob and faced the 50 men alone before daylight, the fourth Friday night of last April.

Troops Guarding Prisoner Force Way Through Mob With Bayonets

Advertiser 7-22-31

NASHVILLE, TENN., July 21—(AP)—National guardsmen arrived here with Everett Holloway tonight after he had been taken from the Robertson County Jail at Springfield, for protection. He was placed in the Davidson County Jail.

Montgomery Ala.

SPRINGFIELD, TENN., July 21—(AP)—Pushing their way with bayonets, National guardsmen tonight made their way through a crowd estimated at 5,000 and started for Nashville with Everett Holloway, whom they were called to protect following his arrest yesterday for seriously wounding Sheriff J. Mart Murphy.

Holloway was removed in a car with five guardsmen, followed by another car of troops, shortly after 40 additional guardsmen had arrived to reinforce 13 who had guarded the jail since early afternoon.

Maj. Otho C. Robinson said the crowds jammed the sidewalks near the jail as Holloway was brought out and that the troops cleared a path to the waiting cars with their bayonets.

The situation became tense this afternoon when the 12 guardsmen under command of Maj. Robinson were deterred from taking Holloway out of the county by James Murphy, brother of the wounded sheriff.

Sheriff Murphy was wounded just below the heart by a shotgun held close to the body, while attempting to arrest Holloway for chasing his wife with a butcher knife.

After the shooting another officer arrested Holloway and brought him to the jail while Sheriff Murphy was taken to a Nashville hospital, where doctors expressed little hope that he could recover.

James Murphy said that when Maj. Robinson asked for custody of Holloway, he refused and said:

"I can't keep you from getting the man, Mr. Robinson, but when you come down these jail steps you or I, one are going to die."

He said that he recognized Maj. Robinson as a National Guard officer but told him that, "I don't care if you do have an order from the Governor. There isn't but one man who can order the removal of Holloway and that's the Sheriff of Robertson County."

Mr. Murphy then said that Maj. Robinson went away and returned in about a half hour and proposed that he station to his troops inside the jail and permit no one else but deputy sheriffs to enter the building.

"I told him if he'd give me his word of honor he wouldn't take the man away I'd agree to that and go on home. I heard him tell his men that and also that if a mob came to shoot and shoot to kill."

Maj. Robinson confirming Murphy's account of the conversation said he conferred with County Judge Byron Johnson afterwards and that arrangements were made for the additional troops.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Tennessee

3453

MEDAL AWARDED SHERIFF'S WIFE WHO DEFIED MOB

Birmingham

Huntingdon, Tenn., Oct. 27.—At an impressive public meeting here today the badge of courage was pinned on the breast of a little woman who last spring successfully defied a mob and saved a prisoner in her keeping, on the very night when another mob in a nearby city took a prisoner from the jail and sacrificed his life.

Ala

The recipient of the decoration, which took the form of a handsome medal, was Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the sheriff of Carroll County. On the evening of April 18 Mrs. Butler looked into the grim faces of fifty men seeking the life of Henry Wauford, accused of wounding an officer, and told them pointedly "where to get off." "You can shoot me down if you will," she said, "but you can't have my prisoner!" Convinced that she meant it, the mob melted away. The prisoner was later removed to another jail for addtional security.

Mrs. Butler's heroism was widely heralded at the time, the more so because on the same night a mob at Union City overpowered the sheriff, broke into the jail and lynched a Negro youth charged with a serious crime. In recognition of her courage a commission, composed of Ex-Governor Hugh Dorsey of Georgia; Marshall Ballard, editor of the New Orleans Item; George Dealey, publisher of the Dallas News; and Mrs. J. H. McCoy of Alabama, awarded to Mrs. Butler a handsome medal, engraved with the words, "For notable service, April 18, 1931." On the other side is pictured a heroic figure standing with drawn sword in front of the temple of justice and encircled by the inscription, "In Defense of Law and Civilization."

Hon. J. Sam Johnson, of Huntingdon, presided at today's meeting, and the presentation was made by Dr. James E. Clarke, of the State Interracial Committee. Mrs. Catherine A. Grimes of Nashville spoke on behalf of the women of Tennessee, and Prof. J. L. Seets of McKenzie expressed the appreciation of the Negro group for Mrs. Butler's heroic stand. J. D. Burton, field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, spoke on behalf of that body.

WOMAN GIVEN MEDAL FOR DEFYING LYNCHERS

Constitution

10-28-31

Mrs. J. C. Butler, Wife of Sheriff, Honored at Huntingdon, Tennessee.

Atlanta, Ga.

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Associated Press Photo.
MRS. J. C. BUTLER.

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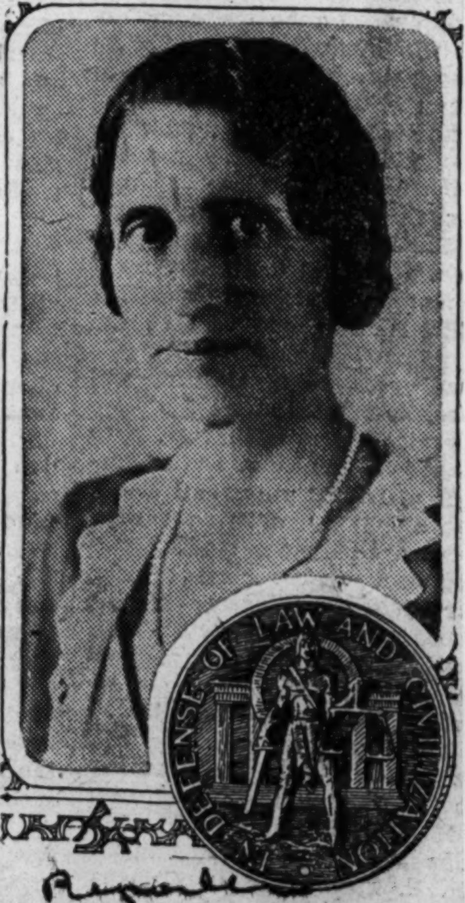
Defies Mob



MRS. J. C. BUTLER DECORATED FOR "NOTABLE SERVICE IN DEFENSE OF LAW"

10-28-31
Birmingham Ala

Medal Awarded Sheriff's Wife Who Defied A Mo

MRS. J. C. BUTLER

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., Oct. 22.—An impressive public meeting is planned for Tuesday, Oct. 27 in this town when the badge of courage will be pinned on the breast of a little woman who last spring successfully defied a mob and saved a prisoner in her keeping, on the very night when another mob in a nearby city took a prisoner from the jail and sacrificed his life.

10-23-31
St. Louis, Mo.

The recipient of the decoration which took the form of a handsome medal, was Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the sheriff of Carroll County. On the evening of April 18 Mrs. Butler looked into the grim faces of fifty men seeking the life of Henry Wanford, accused of wounding an officer, and told them pointedly "where to get off." "You can shoot me down if you will," she said, "but you can't have my prisoner!" Convinced that she meant it, the mob melted away. The prisoner was later removed to another jail for additional security.

Risked Her Life.

Mrs. Butler's heroism was widely heralded at the time, the more so because on the same night a mob at Union City overpowered the sheriff, broke into the jail and lynched a Negro youth charged with a serious crime. In recognition of her courage a commission composed of Ex-Governor Hugh Dorsey of Georgia; Marshall Ballard, editor of the New Orleans Item; George Dealey, publisher of the Dallas News; and Mrs. J. H. McCoy of Alabama, awarded to Mrs. Butler a handsome medal, engraved with the words, "For notable service, April 18, 1931." On the other side is pictured a heroic figure standing with drawn sword in front of the temple of justice and encircled by the inscription, "In Defense of Law and Civilization."

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N. Y. EVENING POST

OCT 27 1931

WOMAN HONORED FOR BALKING MOB

Wife of Tennessee Sheriff Gets Medal for Thwarting Lynching Attempt

STOOD ALONE IN PRISON

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., Oct. 27 (AP).—A "frail little woman" who single-handedly withstood a mob demanding that she turn over a Negro prisoner was honored by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation today.

April 18 she was left in charge of the Carroll County jail by her husband, Sheriff J. Clint Butler, who had to be away for the night. A mob approached the prison and demanded Joe Wauford, Negro, charged with killing an officer. Mrs. Butler refused.

When some members of the mob tried to enter the jail she told them "if you come in here it will be over my dead body." Shortly, the mob withdrew.

Today Mrs. Butler was presented a

medal inscribed: "Mrs. J. C. Butler. In defense of law and civilization. For notable service, April 18, 1931. Commission on Interracial Co-operation.

Journal & Guide

"YOU CAN SHOOT ME DOWN, BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE MY PRISONER!"

10-31-31

HUNTINGTON, Tenn.—At an impressive meeting here Tuesday, the badge of courage was pinned on the breast of a little white woman who last spring successfully defied a mob and saved a prisoner in her keeping, on the very night when another mob in a nearby city took a prisoner from the jail and sacrificed his life.

Norfolk, Va

The recipient of the decoration, which took the form of a handsome medal, was Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the sheriff of Carroll County. On the evening of April 18, Mrs. Butler looked into the grim faces of fifty men seeking the life of Henry Wauford, accused of wounding an officer, and told them pointedly "where to get off." "You can shoot me down if you will," she said, "but you can't have my prisoner!" Convinced that she meant it, the mob melted away. The prisoner was later removed to another jail for additional security.

Heroism Widely Heralded

Mrs. Butler's heroism was widely heralded at the time, the more so because on the same night a mob at Union City overpowered the sheriff, broke into the jail and lynched a Negro youth charged with a serious crime.

In recognition of her courage a commission, composed of Ex-Governor Hugh Dorsey of Georgia; Marshall Ballard, editor of the New Orleans Item; George Dealey, publisher of the Dallas News; and Mrs. J. H. McCoy of Alabama, awarded to Mrs. Butler a handsome medal, engraved with the words, "For notable service, April 18, 1931." On the other side is pictured a heroic figure standing with drawn sword in front of the temple of justice and encircled by the inscription, "In Defense of Law and Civilization."

Hon. J. Sam Johnson, of Huntington, presided at Tuesday's meeting, and the presentation was made by Dr. James E. Clarke, white, of Nashville, editor of the Presbyterian Advance and chairman of the State Interracial Committee. Mrs. Catherine A. Grimes, white, of Nashville, spoke on behalf of the women of Tennessee, and Prof. J. L. Seets of McKenzie expressed the appreciation of the Negro group for Mrs. Butler's heroic stand. J. D. Burton, white, field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, spoke on behalf of that body.

Is Highly Praised

Dr. Clarke declared: "The occasion which we celebrate says to the world that the citizens of the old Volunteer State believe that the Negro is a man, and that the Negro, even when charged with unproved criminal action, has the rights under the law which are accorded to any other citizen by that law.

"Mrs. Butler exemplified to the world what is the attitude of all right-minded citizens of our state—an attitude of justice and fairness toward every man, woman or child within our borders, regardless of race or the color of skin."

Mrs. Grimes paid the heroine the following tribute: "We women of Tennessee like to think that this splendid woman thought and acted for us all in that crucial moment. Mrs. Butler has made us prouder of Tennessee womanhood, prouder of our own generation because through her deed it can take its place with the heroic generations of all time.

MRS. J. C. BUTLER

"Because of what she has done, there will be a stronger sentiment of responsibility toward the defenseless members of our social system, a finer sense of responsibility toward the defenseless members of our social system, a finer sense of responsibility in upholding the law, a greater sense of woman's power in the administration of absolute justice throughout this land of ours."

Want Only Justice

Prof Sheets said: "If through me the colored people of Carrol County may be permitted to send a message to the Interracial Commission which has met to honor one of the citizens of this county for the faithful discharge of her duty in protecting a prisoner from mob violence, that message would be: 'Tell them that the effort was not in vain, and that out of the heart of every man, woman, boy, and girl of color comes the deepest expression of gratitude, and that by habits of thrift and economy, upright living, and loyal citizenship our appreciation will be better expressed in future years.'

"We do not condone crime nor approve the protection of fugitives from justice, but on the contrary it is our desire to see offenders properly punished by the laws of the land. All we ask is protection against mob violence, and an equal chance to be tried in the courts, to be set free if found innocent, and punished if found guilty. We have no plea for anything but justice."

WIFE OF SHERIFF LAUDED FOR VALOR

Commercial Appeal
10-28-31

Huntingdon Woman Given Medal for Halting Mob at Jail.

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., Oct. 27.—(AP)—A "frail little woman," wife of Sheriff J. Clint Butler, was honored today for the nerve that she displayed in an April dawn when, aroused from her sleep, she told a mob that "if you come in here it will be over my dead body."

The sheriff was absent the night of April 18 last and his wife was in charge when the mob appeared and demanded a negro prisoner charged with killing an officer. When some members attempted to enter the jail Mrs. Butler delivered her ultimatum and before long the mob withdrew.

The center of attention and the object of praise from several speakers today, Mrs. Butler was more ill at ease than she was when she single-handedly defied the mob. In accepting a medal presented by members of the Commission on Interracial Co-Operation in commemoration of her heroism, she said shyly:

Asleep on Second Floor.

"I frankly confess that I am worse frightened now than when I confronted that mob six months ago."

Speakers had told how she threw her defiance into the very teeth of those storming the jail.

Inscribed on the medal were these words:

"Mrs. J. C. Butler. In defense of law and civilization. For notable service, April 18, 1931. Commission on Interracial Co-operation."

N Y Times
11/10/31

A Heroine Against a Mob.

Last month a woman in Huntingdon, Tenn., received a medal and tribute from the community for her heroic stand against a mob. She is Mrs. J. C. Butler, wife of the Sheriff of Carroll County.

She was asleep in her room on the second floor of the jail when she heard the rumblings of the mob outside. Men in a state of excitement that made them dangerous to any one had come for a Negro prisoner accused of killing an officer. She met them at the front door of the jail and refused their demands for the prisoner.

The mob was in no mood for arguing, and the leaders pushed forward, intending to enter by force. Then Mrs. Butler, without a flicker of fear, without a gesture of defiance, told them: "If you come in here, it will be over my dead body."

That was too much for the would-be lynchers. They were amazed and baffled by her courage. In their surprise they hesitated long enough to become individuals again. The mob spirit ran out of them, and slowly they turned away.

Mrs. Butler deserves the praise of her Tennessee neighbors and of the whole country.

Lynchings - 1931
Prevented.

Texas.

Tribune
Terrell, Tex.

JAN 3 1 1931

Negro Prisoner Put In Death Cell For Safe-Keeping

MT. PLEASANT, Texas, Jan. 31.—With hardware stores reporting a sudden demand for ammunition and rumors of a lynching heard on street corners, Titus county officers today transferred a negro man accused of killing a young farmer with a hammer here a week ago from the regular cell block to the death cell of the county jail as a precaution against possible mob violence.

Willie Stewart, 21, a farmer whose home was at Argo, about 10 miles northeast of here, was buried today. He died Thursday of injuries received last week when struck by a hammer said to have been flung at Joe Preddy, Mt. Pleasant mechanic, by a negro man incensed because Preddy stopped him as he was about to leave with the hammer after picking it up from where the mechanic was working.

Preddy dodged but the tool struck Stewart, who was standing behind the mechanic. Harvey Riley, negro was arrested, but not until after Stewart's death Thursday were rumors heard of violence.

Residents here who reported having heard conversations in which a desire to lynch the negro was expressed. said a veil of secrecy prevailed among those talking of the affair. Nothing had been heard at noon today in public places.

Many years ago a negro was taken from authorities and carried to Leesburg, 28 miles from here, and burned at stake.

The mob attached a long wire rope to the victim and tortured him by pulling him through the

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SWEETWATER, TEX.
REPORTER

MAR 1 7 1931

MOB ATTEMPTS TO TAKE NEGRO

Black is Accused of Having Attempted Assault of White Girl

MARSHALL, Tex., March 17.(U.P.)—Harrison county officers today maintained a heavy guard over John Burks, 18, negro, after a small band of men late yesterday attempted to take the negro from officers at the home of Miss Mary Young, 21, whom he is charged with stabbing.

Because of the thin ranks of the band of citizens, deputy sheriffs were successful in holding them at bay until the prisoner was rushed back to the county jail.

Officers were persuaded to bring the negro from the jail to the home of the girl through a ruse worked by a member of the little mob. Officials were telephoned and asked to bring the negro to the Young home to be viewed in an effort to identify him.

A formal charge of assault to murder and an attempt to commit criminal assault upon the girl had been filed against the negro today. The alleged attack occurred Saturday night. She was stabbed twice as she fled from her attacker. She is expected to recover.

Officers did not anticipate further trouble today.

Medals Given Texas Sheriff

Advertiser 5-29-31

Advertiser

WALTER W. COVINGTON (RIGHT), AND W. K. M'LEMORE

ATLANTA, GA., May 28.—(AP)—Two Texas sheriffs who saved negro prisoners from mobs have been awarded decorations for courage and judgment by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

They are Walter W. Covington, of Beaumont, sheriff of Jefferson County, and W. K. McLemore, of Shamrock, former sheriff of Wheeler County, Dr. W. W. Alexander announced today.

The award to Sheriff Covington commemorates events of June 28 and 29, when mobs stormed the Jefferson County jail and demanded the surrender of Rainey Williams, negro, accused of a series of crimes. The sheriff and his deputies repulsed the first mob, numbering 100 or more, with the aid of tear gas.

Montgomery, Ala.

The next day another group demanded the prisoner. Advancing to meet them, Covington punched the leader on the jaw and knocked him down. The crowd dispersed in haste.

In the Wheeler County case a mob of 300 gathered at Shamrock on July 12, seeking the life of Jesse Lee Washington, a negro charged with murder.

SHERIFFS GIVEN BRAVERY AWARDS

Constitution

5-29-31

Interracial Commission Rewards Officers Who Saved Negroes

Atlanta, Ga.

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Sheriff McLemore sought out the mob leaders and reasoned with them. They were assured any unlawful effort would be resisted with force.

The awards were passed upon by a committee composed of Hugh M. Dorsey, former governor of Georgia; Mrs. J. H. McCoy, of Athens, Ala.; Marshall Ballard, editor of the New Orleans Item, and George B. Dealey, editor of the Dallas (Texas) News.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
Friday, May 29, 1931

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Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
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ST. LOUIS, MO.
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

JUN 1 - 1931

MEDALS FOR MOB DISPERSALS.

In two different counties of the South a new and happy stroke directed against one of our most lamentable evils has just been recorded. In each the Sheriff was presented with a medal for efforts in upholding the law and preventing the threatened lynching of Negroes.

We have attempted to deal with this difficult problem by defining mob murders as a particular class of murders and providing special penalties for mob members and for peace officers whose lack of care or courage permits a lynching to take place. A bill of this nature was passed at the late session at Jefferson City, though vetoed on account of defects.

Such efforts at a solution are not to be considered misdirected or futile. A man who joins a mob should not escape the consequences because of some of the intricacies in definition and theories as to intent that hamper common law murder trials. A Sheriff or other responsible officer whose lack of diplomacy or energy or whose sheer poltroonery enables a mob to work its will should expose himself to fitting penalties.

But are experients exhausted in such preventives? May not a system of rewards logically supplement a system of punishment? Honor for a mere performance of routine duty is hardly to be recommended, but this is often an extraordinary and very hazardous duty. It is to be assumed that each of these two Sheriffs had especially meritorious conduct to his credit and the bestowal of the honor in the case of one was an occasion of ceremony and in the case of both of considerable favoring publicity.

Considering the prevalence of the evil a service of no small value and one deserving recognition is performed for society by the officer whose bravery and resourcefulness averts even a single lynching.

TYLER, TEX.
COURIER TIMES

AUG 7 1931

SHERIFF SAVES NEGRO SLAYERS FROM LYNCHING

"Smiled" Montgomery Co. Citizens Out of Pair They Wanted to "Work Over"

Conroe, Aug. 7 (UP) — Many Montgomery County citizens Friday still were talking in little groups, bewildered as to how the high sheriff of Harris County smiled them out of two negroes whom they had wanted to "work" over.

MURDER CHARGES FILED AGAINST TWO MEN HELD

Houston, Aug. 7 (AP)—Charges of murder and assault to murder were filed at Conroe Friday against two negro youths caught by posses in connection with the slaying Wednesday of Constable Thomas Beyett and the wounding of Justice of the Peace B. H. Dulaney, both of Montgomery County.

Sheriff Ben Hicks of Montgomery County filed charges against George Tolson, 17, and Isiah Edwards, 19, before Justice of the Peace C. T. Darby.

The two negroes, charged with the slaying of Constable Tom Beyett and the serious wounding of Justice B. H. Dulaney, both of Magnolia, were safe in the Harris county jail. Sheriff Ben Hicks of Montgomery county said they would remain there until the trial date which is expected to be soon.

The first negro, Isiah Edwards, about 17, captured before noon Thursday, less than 24 hours after the shooting on the winding road through the piney woods between Magnolia and Conroe. The second George Tolson, about 21, was captured late in the afternoon. Both negroes lived near Huffsmith in Harris county.

Edwards was captured by a posse of farmers who fired three shots at him. He was already in a coupe, ready to be spirited away, when Sheriff Binford arrived.

Tolson was captured near Walters Lake, a few miles from Spring, by Albert Walters. The negro's bare feet were bleeding from a five mile chase through the thickets ahead of a fresh pack of hounds from Huntsville. He wore no shirt and was exhausted.

Although he still carried the pistol with which Beyett was shot, he offered no resistance to the Harris County farmer who ordered him to halt as he looked down the barrel of a double barrel shotgun.

Negro Assault Suspect To Be Tried Tuesday

Record news
Wichita Falls Texas
11-9-31

GREENVILLE, Texas, Nov. 8. (AP)—Jimmie Ross, 23-year-old negro, held in the Hunt county jail for safe keeping, was notified today he would be taken to trial at Daingerfield Tuesday on a charge of criminally attacking a 37-year-old farmer's wife.

The woman was attacked shortly after the noon hour Friday as she was alone at her home in the Cason community. Ross was captured by possemen within a few minutes after the alarm was spread. He was lodged in the Morris county jail at Daingerfield. Incensed citizens threatened summary justice and officers spirited him away.

Inter-racial Office
Atlanta

LYNCHINGS-1931
PREVENTED

Texas.

3457

TEMPLE, TEX.
TELEGRAM

AUG 15 1931

Lynching Averted

Cities whose officers have permitted angry mobs to get out of control and take the law in their own hands may well look to the manner in which Ann Arbor, Michigan, took care of a nasty situation Thursday.

One of the most brutal affairs in the state's history was the murder and burning of the two young couples on a lonely road last Tuesday.

Feeling in Ann Arbor and vicinity naturally was very high and a mob collected quickly when news of the arrest of the two white men and one negro for the murders. By quick and effective means, the police got the prisoners through the crowd, into the court house, where they were sentenced in a few hours to four life terms each for the murders. A police car carried the prisoners back through the surging crowd and away to the state prison.

All the elements of mob action were there. Had the officers flinched in the slightest, they would have invited a lynching which would have been difficult to prevent.

There are very few mobs which can't be handled by courageous police officers who know their business and don't listen to the cries and demands of the crowd.

Justice was expedited for the three Michigan men. The sentences they received were the maximum allowed by the laws of the state.

Lynchings-1931
Prevented

Virginia.

3456

MAN SPIRITED AWAY TO AVERT LYNCHING

Herald Commonwealth
1-3-31

RICHMOND, Va.—Randolph Cox 39-year-old alleged slayer of J. Newton Wood, (white) State Prohibition Inspector, in a liquor raid at Warsaw, aV., last Saturday, was spirited to the Henrico County jail here, early this week, to prevent possible mob violence. Baltimore, Md.

Richmon dcounty officials felt it unsafe to keep the man in the community where the shooting occurred.

Wood was killed when he attempted to arrest Cox at his home after first finding liquor on his place, according to R. S. Durette, another dry agent who accompanied Wood on the raid.

Durette fired at Cox and wounded him in the face after Wood was shot down. Cox was treated at a hospital before being locked up. He claims he shot Wood only after he had been wounded himself.

3456

Lynchings-1931

Prevented

West Virginia.

3455

Machine Guns Mounted on Jail To Keep Mob From Slayer Powers

9-14-31

Clarksburg, W. Va.

CLARKSBURG, W. Va., Sept. 20. (UP)—(Sunday.)—State police hurriedly summoned from Haywood, 15 miles away, mounted machine guns on the walls of the county jail today to keep at bay a mob, estimated at more than 6,000, bent on lynching Harry F. Powers, matrimonial agency Bluebeard and self-confessed killer of seven.

After first attempts to repulse the crowd with tear gas bombs and fire hose resulted in added threats of violence, Sheriff William B. Grimm made efforts to communicate with Governor William G. Connolly, to request that the national guard be called out.

The governor was understood to be in Wheeling.

The crowd, at first estimated by the officers at 2,000, including many present mainly out of curiosity, was repulsed several times with tear gas bombs. The fire department was called and threatened to turn hose on the rioters.

Cries of "Lynch him, lynch him," were heard and several members of the mob, armed with axes, threatened to chop the hose lines in two. Meanwhile word of the riot had spread and the crowd was augmented by an additional 4.000.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
POST-GAZETTE

SEP 21 1931

Lynching Blocked.

CREDIT is due the West Virginia state police, the sheriff and the Clarksburg authorities for their successful resistance to an attempt to seize and hang Harry F. Powers, accused of the atrocious murders of two women and three small children. It goes to prove that the law need not give way to mob violence when its representatives are determined and courageous. Too often in other districts of the country where lynch law is most often employed, there is reason to believe that the officers are half in sympathy with the crowd.

But the incident should impress the importance of speeding the wheel of justice. Following the brutal "torch" murders near Ann Arbor, Michigan, last month, the confessed killers were tried the same day they were caught and were on their way to serve life terms in less than twelve hours. That may have been rushing things a bit too much, but it was a refreshing contrast to the usual protracted delays in enforcing the law's penalties.

Without condoning the attempt to seize Powers, it is easy to understand popular resentment against him and the demand that his trial be advanced to the earliest possible date. If the public feels confident that justice will be done, and done expeditiously, the clamor for the mob to take matters into its own hand will not make much headway.

"They Shall Not Pass" is Expression of Leading White People of South

STRIKING AND FAR-REACHING EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT HUNTINGDON, TENNESSEE

Nashville Tenn.
Nashville Globe

NOV 13 1931

Presentation of Some of the Addresses From the Exercises in the High School Auditorium Delivered Tuesday, October 27th

BY COURTESY OF THE STATE INTERRACIAL COMMISSION OF TENNESSEE

"They Shall Not Pass'—While this is a war pharse and was coined during the world's struggle that Democracy might be saved, it has been appropriately placed at the head of a pamphlet containing speeches and addresses delivered in the high school auditorium at Huntingdon, Tenn., when a medal inscribed, "In defense of law and civilization" was presented Mrs. J. C. Butler, the wife of the sheriff, who upheld, by her heroic act, the reputation of the Volunteer State.

Among those who delivered addresses were Hon. J. Sam Johnson of Huntingdon, James D. Burton of Oakdale, Mrs. Katherine A. Grimes of Nashville, Prof. J. L. Seets of McKenzie, Dr. James E. Clarke of Nashville, and Mrs. J. C. Butler of Huntingdon. In the first address, Hon. J. Sam Johnson, Chairman of the Carrol County Interracial Committee, Referee in Bankruptcy, U. S. District Court, said:

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

We have met here today for the purpose of doing honor to one of our citizens for an outstanding public service rendered by her in a time of stress and under trying circumstances which called for and demanded the highest human courage, the utmost human poise and the greatest human bravery.

Although a frail little woman, as you can see, she faced a mob, and, conscious of her trust upon which depended human life and the majesty and dignity of a government of law, she met and performed her duty under these harrowing circumstances as coolly and as bravely as Joan of Arc ever faced an enemy army or fought and won a battle.

Ours is a government of law, administered under direction of the people through their chosen agents, and, theoretically, it is admittedly the greatest and most beneficent government of earth, with more freedom and more power vested in its citizens than any other government that ever existed, and all these governmental blessings are vouchsafed to us and guaranteed to every citizen of this great country under our National Constitution.

Under that Constitution in less than a century and a half we have grown to our present proportions. Our territorial area, at first only a comparatively strip along the Atlantic seaboard, inhabited by a population of less than many of the States of the Union under the last Census, now reaches from ocean to ocean, and it holds in its bosom one hundred and twenty millions of people, living in nearly every altitude to be found on earth and following every vocation known to the human mind, and each group, more or less obsessed with the idea that his or her particular line of work is indispensable to governmental success and human happiness, is striving to obtain governmental advantages and governmental favors which, to some extent, threatens and endangers the security of our liberty.

In addition to our natives of the soil our country is peopled by many foreigners who have come to our shores from almost every corner of the earth, and with these different races who have come to us from foreign countries and with the different races who are natives here we are trying to carry on as a Nation through a system om malgamation and in a spirit of co-operation that will insure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare and establish justice among our people regardless of race or color.

This accomplishment will necessarily be slow, and to be secure and complete will necessarily require team work of all the good men and good women of every race in our country, all for one and one for all, supplementing and supporting each other in every movement that establishes the majesty and the supremacy of the law.

The weathervane on the barn on a windy day will swing to all points of the compass sometimes within an hour, but, my friends, we have no desire and we will have no desire, if we catch the spirit of this meeting, to see a government of a hundred and twenty millions of people fashioned after the weathervane, that would tolerate for one moment a movement by any group, misguided by the zephyrs of impulse and swept by the guests of sentiment or the whirlwind of passion, to take the law into their own hands and lynch a man in an ill-advised moment, and some times later learn that the **wrong man** has been "executed" and that the victim of the mob is a martyr to rumor and prejudice.

The honoree of this occasion, when confronted with danger, did no more than her friends and neighbors who know her expected her to do. Knowing the sturdy stock from which she came, we would have been disappointed had she done less. Mrs. Butler's forebearers on both sides were unafraid of anything or anybody when duty called them, and, in their quiet though effective way, in the civilian and military life of our country always privates in the ranks, for they asked for no higher privilege than to be permitted to fight for the right, they established characters for integrity and dependability which form the very background and foundation of her life. We are glad, however, to join in honoring her publicly here in her home town and home county, not that it will either broaden or deepen our affections for and appreciation of her, **for we know her,** but that other good women and other good men everywhere may learn of and follow her example of unswerving duty and loyalty to trust as a citizen, as a helpmeet of her husband, as a mother, for in this crucial test she was all of that. She was a good citizen, in that she upheld the majesty and supremacy of the law and saved her community and her county from the disgrace of mob violence; a good wife, in that she stepped into the breach and saved the official and personal integrity of her husband in his absence; a good mother, in that she prevented in the presence of her children the gruesome spectacle of organized murder. All honor to the heroine of this occasion, Mrs. Pearlie Butler! May her deeds and her bravery be an inspiration to other women in similar conditions and under similar circumstances in our land is my sincere prayer.

I now take pleasure in introducing to you Mr. James D. Burton, Interstate Secretary for Alabama and Tennessee of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation whom I will ask to give you a brief outline of the scope of the work of this organization and he will be followed by other distinguished speakers of the movement who are co-workers with him in this campaign of co-operation.

By James D. Burton, Oakdale, Tennessee, Interstate Secretary for Alabama and Tennessee, Commission on Interracial Co-operation.

"MR. CHAIRMAN:

We repeat the pronouncement of more than three hundred Tennesseans, assembled in the State Capitol, in Nashville, in 1920, that lynching is unjustifiable under any and all circumstances, and that, whatever may be the provocation, lynching is the surrender of all that is dear to civilization. Every act of mob violence is not so much the punishment of the criminal as it is the lynching of the law. No extenuation as to the seriousness of the crime that causes such outbreaks or to the frequent defeat of justice in the courts, should be urged in favor of any mobs that take the law in its own hands.

Mrs. Butler's courageous stand in defense of a prisoner is an inspiration to all who believe in the orderly processes of government. No community is as yet safe from mob violence, and eternal vigilance is necessary. Municipal and county officers should take all necessary precautions against mob violence, and make full use of the power of the State. And beyond any thing the forces of the law may do, there is the constant need of developing the right kind of public sentiment. Loyal and faithful officers need moral support which they do not always receive, and which, if given freely, would make it easier for them to restrain a mob. Of course, if there are faithless sheriffs anywhere, they ought to be suspended at once. The purpose of the Interracial Movement is to give moral support to those faithful sheriffs who sincerely want to do their duty, and who need and should have all possible moral support. An anti-lynching bill was introduced in the last Legislature which had as one of its purposes the bringing of moral support to the sheriffs of Tennessee. It was endorsed by white leaders from Memphis to Bristol. It passed first reading in the House and Senate, but failed of further consideration, along with other bills, on account of debate regarding finances of State.

The Tennessee Interracial Commission has on its State and local committess six hundred members, and is in turn affiliated with the South-wide movement which contacts with fourteen states. It is the General Commission presenting the sheriff's medal today to Mrs. Butler through the State Interracial Commission of Tennessee, and not only Tennessee, but the entire South awards this medal to Mrs. Butler.

The government of this Nation and of the State of Tennessee is not circumscribed to the executive offices in Washington and Nashville, but functions through constituted authority in every county and hamlet in our land. And it is in the local community where permanent improvement in race relations must be made. The Interracial Movement is established on this principle. Interracial committees have been set up as agencies of understanding and good will in sixty counties in Tennessee. These committees are entirely autonomous. Out of this effort for the past 13 years have come numbers of instances of protection of prsioners threatend by mobs, cooperation has been given in the erection of school buildings, campaigns have been conducted in the interest of crime prevention, better health, legal justice, child welfare, and the improvement of rural life. Church, school and college groups are enlisted. Many causes of irritation and friction have been eradicated. Suspicion and distrust have given way to understanding and confidence. The Interracial Movement will continue to crusade against lynching.

The distinguished leaders who follow on this program will pay tribute to Mrs. Butler. Her brave act will live in the hearts of law-abiding people through the years. The story is told of a writer who called the White House during Preident dent Coolidge's administration, and who was seeking to discredit the greatness of George Washington. He asked Mr. Coolidge a question regarding the life of our first President. Mr. Coolidge made no direct answer, but looking out of a window he pointed to the Washington Monument, and remarked to his visitor, "it stands!" And if critics of law and order pass this way, and try to discredit the **noble, brave** deed of Mrs. J. C. Butler, brave Tennesseans everywhere will rise up in defense and exclaim, "it stands."

By Mrs. Katharine A. Grimes, Nashville, Tennessee,* Chairman Woman's Division, State Interracial Commission, Associate Editor of "Southern Agriculturist."

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Each age of the world has had its heroism. For the most part it has been simply the expression of the existing spirit of the age, brought by some sudden necessity to a focus of high perfection. It may be said that individual acts of heroism are wave-crest lifted up just a little higher than the great currents of thought and feeling that run beneath, and which are unnoticed in their quiet strength. Such acts are rarely the product of a single moment, but have their roots in habits of thought and action that have been habitually deliberate and finally willed; in a high discipline of mind and soul that has become instinctive through long exercise.

Here and there, it is true, history tells us of individual greatness for which we can see no reasonable line of causation. Yet we may be sure such a line existed. Take, for example, the isloated greatness of Joan of Arc. She was a simple peasant girl, with, so far as we know, no family tradition of heroism. Yet the key to her sublime purpose lies in the strong and unblemished faith of her people, kept intact through many generations, and motivating every action of their daily lives. Had it not been for that continuity of lofty faith, there would have been no St. Joan—of that we can be sure.

The devotion and resolution that are grounded in such high idealism as we now commemorate, belong to no particular race or century. Neither are they more masculine than feminine. Women, who have always been called the "weaker" sex, have always, in great crises, upheld the breaking morale of the world by their own integrity. It is needless to go back into history to prove this—to recite anew the deeds of a Queen of Philippa; a St. Genevieve; or a Jane of Navarre. Mankind forgets easily and quickly, yet the mere mention of such names brings still a thrill of pride and wonder. What we must even more vividly remember, however, is the fact that back of the heroism which blossomed in their noble deed lay the quiet strength of disciplined generations— a great tradition of loyalty to what is best and highest in human understanding and finest in human motive.

It was of such deeds that Homer wove the fabric of his immortal epics. But, his Andromache and Helen and Antigone were only the dramatized spirits of the ages which they represented. Had there been no high ideals in Attic Greece, there could have been no such comprehensions as those wwhich Euypides drew his Iphigenia, or Aeschylus his Clytemnestra. Without a high standard of national ethics, there could have been no Flora Macdonald, no Catherine of Siena, No Elizabeth of Hungary; none of the gentle and heroic women whose lives paid the price of French liberty and the penalty of French shame in the red days of the Revolution.

We forget that history is stil making in our own age. So when some deed of oustanding bravery is brought to our attention, we are at first struck with a sort of wonder that it could have happened in our own day and time, instead of during a century long gone by. When this is the deed of a woman, we are still more astonished. Yet down in our souls we know we have a right to rejoice in it, to share in it, as when one spokesman voices the thought of a great mass of people in a single ringing sentence. We recognize it as the outgrowth of some great underlying grace of spirit and nobility of soul that has been the product of the highest aspirations of of all ages.

Hence, in the splendid deed of Mrs. Butler, which is now fittingly being brought to public acclaim, we see fare more than a single moment of instinctive bravery. It was that, indeed; but it was also the result of an innate courage that was a part of her very soul. It was not bor of that one moment's need, nobly it sprang to meet that need; but was the inevitable product of a lifetime of meeting the challenges of right and wrong, and of quick and sure decision. No weakling could have done such a thing. No woman habitually fearful or hesitant would have dared that challenge of terror and threat in defense of the principles which she knew to be just and right.

There is one point that must not be overlooked in estimating the quality of courage which was hers. There was no question here of great heroics, such as women have displayed on national event; nor of the despair of mother-love, such as we have recently known in the story of Madame Breshkaya; nor even of has nerved man a woman's arm. There was something even nobler that instinctive self-defense, which and more fundamental in the courage which could defend that most helpless of human creatures, a black man accused of a great crime. It would have been more than easy, because she was a woman, to have sidestepped that poignant issue. Because she is a woman, no blame would have attached to her if she had. But no such though was in heart. The appeal of that abjec helplessness called to the age-old womanly instinct of protection, and out that quickened sense she spoke The answer she made to the demand of that senseless mob was the answer women have made through all ages to the high challenge of stark right and jstice—"You will do this wrong over the protest of my dead body."

Women of Tennesse like to think that this splendid woman thought and acted for us all in that crucial moment. We like to think that the same flame which burned in her soul has been kindled in our own by the Divine Spark of sympathy and human-kindness which is our noblest inheritance. Mrs. Butler has made us prouder of Tennessee womanhood, prouder of the story of womankind through all the past centuries, prouder of our own generation because through her deed it can take its place with the heroic generations of all time.

So we claim a right to rejoice in the honor being paid to her. Because of what she has done there will be a stronger sentiment of responsibility toward the defenseless members of our social system, a finer sense of responsibility in upholding the law, a greater sense of woman's power in the administration of absolute justice throughout this land of ours. May the inspiration thus given to law-abiding citizenship bear fruit, not only among women, but among all those who set a high value upon their American citizenship, whatever their walk or condition in life.

*Read by Mrs. E. Love Mebane in Huntingdon in absence of Mrs. Grimes.

By Prof. J. L. Seets, McKenzie, Tennessee, Member of Colored Division, State Interracial Commission, Principal Carroll County Training School.

"MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE INTERRACIAL COMMISSION AND FRIENDS:

It would in some measure relieve my embarrassment if I could, even in a slight degree, feel myself worthy of the signal honor which you do my race today. Just why you call me from my humble and much devoted task among the people whose interest I have dedicated my life as a leader, to share in the honors of this occasion is not for me to explain. Yet it may not be inappropriate for me to suggest that one of the most vital questions which touch our American life is: How can we bring the strong, wealthy and learned into helpful touch with the poorest, most ignorant and humblest and at the same time make the one appreciate the vitalizing, strengthening influence of the other. Just how to make the mansions on you Bacon Street feel and see the need of the spirits in the lowest cabin of the hills and plains of our land, these are of great concern to me. And this day to my mind is the dawn of this noble achievement. The Interracial Commission together with the cooperation of the liberty-loving people of America are solving this problem, not by bringing themselves down but by bringing the masses up.

If through me, the colored people of Carroll County may be permitted to send a message to the Interracial Commission, which on this day has met to honor one of the citizens of this County for unselfish service in the faithful discharge of her duty to protect a prisoner from mob violence, that message would be: "Tell them that her effort was not in vain; that out of the heart of every man, woman, boy and girl of color comes the deepest and most sincere expression of gratitude, and that by habits of thrift and economy, by upright living, and by loyal citizenship, our appreciation will be better expressed in future years."

We would have clearly understood that we do not condone crime nor approve the protection of fugitives from justice. On the contrary, that it is our desire to see offenders properly punished by the laws of the land. As citizens all we ask is protection against mob violence, and an equal chance to be tried in the courts of the land—to be set free if found innocent, and punished if guilty. All we ask is the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our government gives us liberty under the law, and as citizens of a democratic republic, we expect only that our government protect and safeguard our liberty When the Pilgrim fathers set foot upon the shores of America, in 1620, I am told that they laid the foundation of our national existence upon the bedrock of liberty. From that day to this Liberty has been the common bond of our united people.

Finally, we make no plea for anything but justice, realizing that in all things which have for their purpose the development of a better and brighter land and which have to do with the welfare of the common wealth of our country, state and nation we may be as closely united as the fingers clutched in my fist, and in all matters purely social as divided as the same fingers outstretched and distinctly separated. The entire Negro population from the hills of the grandest county in the South would join me in this expression of appreciation to Mrs. Butler, wife of the County Sheriff, in the protection against mob violence of one of our race deprived of liberty and placed in Carroll County jail to await trial. She, amid the din of arms, the strife of tongues stood forth:

"As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,
Though round its breast the rolling clouds spread
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

By Dr. James E. Clarke, Nashville, Tennessee, State Chairman, Tennessee Commission on Interracial Co-operation, Editor "Presbyterian Advance".

"FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

We are nere today primarily to pay a tribute to moral courage and to express, on behalf of law-abiding Tennesseans generally, our admiration for a woman who, with rare self-control, stood firmly for duty and law-enforcement in the face of a threatening crowd of excited men who had temporarily "lost their heads" as they were swayed by the mob spirit.

But much more is invil yr

But much more is involved on this occasion. The incident which has called us together was one which gave to the world a striking illustration of the power of spirit over brute force. What can a single man accomplish in attempting to match the physical strength of one against combined strength of dozens or hundreds? **Absolutely nothing,** if it is a mere question of physical strength. For this reason an officer of the law often decides that the odds against him are overwhelming and that it is useless to withstand them. And no other conclusion is reasonable if there be no other force than physical force.

Yet today we are commemorating an event of one morning only six months ago in this very community when a frail unarmed woman—not a muscular, armed man—confronted two score or more of able bodied men, and the lone woman was victor. By what power? By the power of spirit. Any display of force on her part might have incited the counter display of much greater force, but men who were relying upon force were nonplussed when they were met by a spirit of cool courage and firm determination to be true to duty at any cost, and it called to their own spirits with an irresistible appeal.

I wish those men could and would come back and testify with the utmost frankness concerning what happende inside of them when they came face to face with the brave spirit whose high service to the state we have met to celebrate. I think they would tell us that they suddenly discovered that they had been moved by the impulses which belong to their animal natures and were about to commit a deed unworthy of rational beings; that they had yielded to mere human passion and had entirely overlooked the requirements of justice and brotherhood; that they had been swept from their moorings as good citizens by a storm of desire and had wholly failed to hear the calls of conscience and duty. But the voice of this woman was to them the voice of conscience; her firm stand was a living example of duty; her courageous challenge that they might shoot if they wished but that only over her dead body could they secure the prisoner, awoke their slumbering manhood and turned their thoughts to the demands of righteousness and the obligations of citizenship. Such is the power of spirit over the body. The spirit which enables one to control himself is able also to control others, and when men and women rely upon spiritual power, rather than upon physical force, they find the Spirit of the invisible God working with them to give an undreamed of and unconquerable power. Such is the teaching of Scripture, and such is the testimony of human experience.

But the occasion which we celebrate today said something else to the world. It is that good citizens of this old Volunteer State believe that the Negro is a man and that the Negro, even when charged with unproved criminal action, has the same rights under the law which are accorded to any other citizen by that law. Doubtless Mrs. Butler wold have been just as courageous had the prisoner been a white man and she would have deserved just as much honor for her courage. But today she deserves additional honor for an entirely different reason—that she exemplified to the world what is the attitude of all right-minded citizens of our state—an attitude of justice and fairness toward every man, woman and child within our borders, regardless of race or the color of skin.

This is an interracial gathering I represent an organization devoted to the improvement of the relations between our two races which live and work side by side in Tennessee. As its representative I venture to say to this audience that all of the finest resoltuions ever adopted, all of the committees ever appointed, all of the wise plans ever devised by our Interracial Commission will never do as much to convince our Negro fellow citizens that we seek their wlfare as well as our own as was done by Mrs. Butler when she declared, in the name of the majesty of the law of our state and as the representative of the Christian conscience of white Tennesseans, that she was ready to lay down her life that full justice might be done to a Negro citizen.

Our colored citizens may well be grateful becanse of the new assurance given to members of their race by virtue of Mrs. Butler's defiance of lawlessness and her demand for justice to a Negro; but white citizens of our state have even more reason to be grateful. It was not "in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth" that this brave woman proclaimed to the world from the doorway of the Carroll Counay jail: "This is the attitude of the right-minded citizen of the soverign state of Tennessee."

We remember the words of Lowell that "once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide In the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side." To you, Mrs. Butler, such a moment came at least once on that memorable April morning in 1931. Doubtless you will never forget that morning. In the midst of the ravishing beauty of a spring day in the South, with the birds singing in the treetops and the bloom and blossoms that gave promise of nature's beauty all about, you stood at the jail door. Behind you was the crouching form of a black-skinned prisoner, committed to the jail for safe-keeping until he might be given fair trial. Before you surged the crowd of angry white men who were determined to punish the prisoner, regardless of his rights under the law. It would have seemed to the observer almost absurd to say that the issue of that moment hung upon a woman's decision. But it did. It was your moment to decide. You decided, and your decision was on the side of good, for law and order for righteousness and justice, for the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Others may have forgotten that day which must so live in your memory, but they have not forgotten the deed which followed that moment of decision. Therefore, as a tribute to your courageous spirit and a testimonal of their appreciation of the service which you rendered to the state on that fateful morning, and also as a pledge of our determination to stand with you for justice and brotherhood for all and among all, it is my privilege to present to you this bit of metal. Its intrinsic value is small, but it represents the conviction of your fellow citizens that you manifested a courage and determination which are all too rare, that you proved the power of spirit over physical force and that you exemplified the attitude which ought always to be assumed by the Christian citizens, for all of which your fellow citizens are deeply in your debt.

By Mrs. J. C. Butler, Huntingdon Tennessee, Wife of the Sheriff of Carroll County, Tenn.

"Mr. CHAIRAMAN, GENTLEMEN AND LADIES AND FRIENDS:

I wold not be human if I failed to acknowledge with proper gratitude the honor you do me today, however, unmerited it may be, and words fail me when I undertake to express my deep appreciation of what has been said and done here in my honor. All my "talks" and lectures have been delivered in my home to members of my family all my life. I have had no experience whatever in speaking in public nor in trying to speak to an audience, and I frankly confess that I am worse frightened now than when I confronted that mob a few months ago.

It has always been my policy to try to do my duty under any and all circumstances. I did no more than my duty on the occasion when the mob undertook to enter and take from our jail a helpless prisoner a few months ago. The law reposed in s a sacred trust when my husband, by virtue of his office, became the custodian of its unfortunate victims, and, while not a pleasant task sometimes to do so, it was our duty and our privilege and or pleasure to discharge that trust faithfully.

If the humble effort I made helps in any way to advance the cause of law and order and orderly procedure in the disposition of those charged with crime, however odious the charge, then the first desire of my heart is gratified.

I want to thank Dr. Clarke and through him I want to thank the organization which he represents, and I assure them all that this medal which they have given me for the little part I played in upholding the law will be placed among my most sacred keepsakes, not for exploiting any deed of my own, but that I may be often reminded that my act may have helped in some degree to bring about better relations bewteen the races that inhabit our country, that will eventually result in greater respect for justice for law and order. I thank you.

J. D. BURTON INTERSTATE SECRETAR
FOR ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE
OAKDALE, TENN.

Nashville Banner.

SPORTS
FINANCIAL
CLASSFIED

NASHVILLE, TENN., TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 27, 1931

aval Pleased With Results Of Visit To U. S.

MRS. J. C. BUTLER GIVEN MEDAL

Interracial Commission Commemorates Heroism of Sheriff's Wife.

MOB DEFIED BY WOMAN

In Husband's Absence She Saved Negro Prisoner in Huntingdon Jail From Lynching.

HIGH TRIBUTE PAID HER

Huntingdon, Tenn., Oct. 27—(AP)—A "frail little woman," the wife of Sheriff J. Clint Butler, was honored Tuesday for the nerve she displayed in an April dawn when, aroused from her sleep, she told a mob that "if you come in here it will be over my dead body."

The sheriff was absent the night of April 18 last, and his wife was in charge of the jail when the mob appeared and demanded a Negro prisoner charged with killing an officer. When some members attempted to enter the jail Mrs. Butler delivered her ultimatum and before long the mob withdrew.

The center of attention and the object of praise from several speakers Tuesday, Mrs. Butler was more ill at ease than she was when single-handedly she defied the mob. In accepting a medal presented by members of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation in commemoration of her heroism, she said shyly:

"I frankly confess that I am worse frightened now than when I confronted that mob six months ago." It was the first time she had delivered an address outside her home, she explained.

Speakers before her had told how she threw her defiance into the very teeth of those storming the jail.

INCIDENT REVIEWED

"Mrs. Butler was asleep in the sheriff's apartment on the second floor of the jail," said James D. Burton, Oakdale, secretary of the commission for Alabama and Tennessee. "She heard the tramp of the members of the mob in the jail yard. She went downstairs and met them at the front door.

"They demanded that she deliver up to them one Joe Wauford, a Negro prisoner charged with killing an officer and sent for safe-keeping from an adjacent county. She refused their request, replying, 'You can't put anything like that over on me.'

"When members of the mob made as though they would enter by force, she delivered this ultimatum:

"'If you come in here it will be over my dead body.'

"This resistance was wholly unexpected by the mob. It was too much for them. Its members did not want to take the results. In the still hours of the morning they withdrew from the Huntingdon Jail. The little woman in the doorway had won victory, and the majesty of the law prevailed."

Mr. Burton said that "Mrs. Butler's courageous stand in defense of a prisoner is an inspiration to all who believe in the orderly processes of government."

Inscribed on the medal were these words:

"Mrs. J. C. Butler. In defense of law and civilization. For notable service, April 18, 1931. Commission on Interracial Cooperation."

SPIRIT VS. FORCE

Dr. James E. Clarke, Nashville, State chairman for the organization, interpreted Mrs. Butler's feat as a "striking illustration of the power of spirit over brute force."

"What can a single man accomplish in attempting to match the physical strength of one against the combined strength of dozens or hundreds?" he asked. "Absolutely nothing if it is a mere question of physical strength.

"For this reason an officer often decides that the odds against him are overwhelming and that it is useless to withstand them. And no other conclusion is reasonable if there be no other force than physical force.

"Yet today we are commemorating an event of one morning only six months ago in this very community when a frail, unarmed woman—not a muscular armed man—confronted two score or more of able bodied men, and the lone woman was the victor.....The incident gave to the world a striking illustration of the power of spirit over brute force."

He declared that "any display of force on her part might have incited the counter-display of much greater force, but men who were relying upon force were non-plussed when they were met by a spirit of cool courage and firm determination."

J. Sam Johnson, a fellow townsman of Mrs. Butler, said she was "a good citizen in that she upheld the majesty and supremacy of the law and saved her community and her county from the disgrace of mob violence; a good wife in that she stepped into the breach and saved the official and personal integrity of her husband in his absence; and a good mother in that she prevented in the presence of her children the gruesome spectacle of organized murder."

Mrs. Butler's "courage in defending that most helpless of human creatures, a black man accused of a great crime," was said by Mrs. Katherine Grimes, Nashville, to be greater even than "that instinctive self-defense which has nerved many a woman's arm."

Mrs. Grimes, State chairman of the commission's women's division, said that "it would have been more than easy, because Mrs. Butler was a woman, to have side-stepped that poignant issue. Because she is a woman, no blame would have attached to her if she had.

"But no such thought was in her heart. The appeal of that abject helplessness called to the age-old womanly instinct of protection, and out of that quickened sense she spoke."

Bearing the message of the country's Negroes, Prof. J. L. Seets, McKenzie Negro, said his message was: "Her effort was not in vain, and out of the heart of every man, woman, boy and girl of color comes the deepest and most sincere expression of gratitude. By habits of thrift and economy, by upright living and by loyal citizenship, our appreciation will be better expressed in future years."

And this is what the principal of the celebration, Mrs. Butler, had to say:

"I would not be human if I failed to acknowledge with proper gratitude the honor you do me today. However unmerited it may be, and words fail me when I undertake to express my deep appreciation of what has been said and done here in my honor.

"All my 'talks' and 'lectures' have been delivered in my home to members of my family all my life. I have had no experience whatever in speaking in public or in trying to speak to an audience, and I frankly confess that I am worse frightened now than when I confronted that mob a few months ago.

"It has always been my policy to try to do my duty under any and all circumstances. I did no more than my duty on the occasion when that mob undertook to enter and take from our jail a helpless prisoner a few months ago. The law reposed in us a sacred trust when my husband, by virtue of his office, became the custodian of its unfortunate victims, and, while not a pleasant task sometimes to do so, it was our duty and our privilege and our pleasure to discharge that trust faithfully.

"If the humble effort I made helps in any way to advance the cause of law and order and orderly procedure in the disposition of those charged with crime, however odious the charge, then the first desire of my heart is gratified.

"I want to thank Dr. Clarke and through him I want to thank the organization which he represents, and I assure them all that this medal which they have given me for the little part I played in upholding the law will be placed among my most sacred keepsakes, not for exploiting any deed of my own, but that I may be often reminded that my act may have helped in some degree to bring about better relations between the races that inhabit our country, that will eventually result in greater respect for justice, for law and order. I thank you."

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Jas. D. Burton

THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

Monday Morning, October 26, 1931.

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To Honor Bravery

MRS. J. C. BUTLER

Mrs. Butler wife of Sheriff J. Clinton Butler of Carroll county, who defied members of a mob storming the jail last April, during the absence of her husband and refused to deliver to them a negro prisoner, will be honored Tuesday in commemoration of her heroism.

HOME BURNED

CHAPEL HILL, Tenn., Oct. 25—(Spl.)—Fire destroyed the small dwelling of Ed Hooper at Rich Creek, Thursday afternoon.

Bravery of Woman in Withstanding Mob to Be Honored in Medal Awarding

Carroll Sheriff's Wife Protected Prisoner and Thwarted Angry Crowd Unarmed.

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., Oct. 25—(Spl.)—The bravery of a frail West Tennessee sheriff's wife in withstanding the demands of a mob that she turn over to them a negro prisoner will be honored here Tuesday when Mrs. J. Clint Butler will be presented a medal.

The medal inscribed "Mrs. J. B. Butler, in defense of law and civilization. For notable service, April 18, 1931, Commission on Interracial Cooperation," is to be given for defiance of an angry group of men seeking a negro charged with slaying an officer. The negro, Joe Wauford, had been placed in the Carroll county jail for safe keeping after being arrested in another county.

Mrs. Butler was at home alone. Her husband had left her in charge. Asleep in an upper apartment, she heard the tramp of feet in the street before the jail. Muffled sounds of many men came up to her from the jail yard. Arousing Mrs. Butler, unarmed, met them at the front door.

"We've come after that negro," they shouted.

Looking at those being pressed forward, she calmly told them, "You can't put anything like that over on me."

Those nearest the door motioned as if they intended to push her aside, a few followed.

"If you come in here it will be over my dead body," Mrs. Butler stated as she more firmly took her stand in the doorway.

Such resistance was unexpected. The mob waited a moment, wavered and then, in the still hours of the morn, slowly turned and withdrew. The prisoner, held for safe-keeping, was safe.

On the day the mob was turned back by Mrs. Butler, another group took a negro prisoner from the Union City jail and hanged him from a tree in the Obion county courtyard. Another mob formed at Paducah but it was thwarted when the man they sought was removed to Hopkinsville.

The medal is to be presented by members of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation during a ceremony at which a number of speakers will take part. Mrs. Butler will make her first public address in accepting it.

Included on the program are: James D. Burton, Oakdale, secretary of the commission for Alabama and Tennessee; Dr. James E. Clarke, Nashville, state chairman of the organization; Mrs. Katherine Grimes, Nashville, state chairman of the commission's women's division; Prof. J. L. Seets, McKenzie negro, and J. Sam Johnson, Huntingdon.

Former Slave, Nearly 100, At "White Folks" Reunion

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., Oct. 25.—(Spl.)—The home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Sanders of Westport was made happy by the gathering of all the children and grandchildren for a reunion recently. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Sanders and son, Herman of Huntingdon, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Sanders and daughter, Miss Olive Mai, of Henderson; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Wilson, Miss Lela Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Hall and Mrs. T. A. Sanders, all of Westport.

A visitor during the day was Harriett Clerk, aged negro woman ex-slave, who for many years was a cook in the Sanders family. She now lives in Lexington and is nearly 100 years old.

Red Cross Annual Meeting

The Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its annual membership meeting, Tuesday, November 3, 1931 at 12:15 on the fifth floor of the Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

Mrs. Bernard Fensterwald, Sec'y.

CALLS LAND CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25—(AP)—Secretary Hyde has called a three-day conference of bankers, farmers, railway officials and insurance and mortgage representatives to consider a national land utilization policy. They will meet in Chicago November 19 to 21 to discuss also such questions as sub-marginal land, tax delinquency, farm abandonment, mortgage indebtedness and foreclosed farm lands.

Prof. J. A. Robins Named Inter-Racial Officer

McKENZIE, Tenn., Oct. 25—(Spl.)—Prof. James A. Robins, principal of McTyeire school for 32 years, was elected chairman of the West Tennessee district of interracial relations committee at the annual conference held at Memphis Wednesday. He succeeds Prof. J. L. Harris of Jackson, who was elected treasurer.

184 HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE USING FATHER JOHN'S MEDICINE

Half-sick, run-down people are ill-equipped to face winter's dangers. With strength at a low ebb, even an ordinary cold may be serious.

Now is the time to build up resisting power to ward off colds. Father John's Medicine is a food medicine that contains no drugs, no alcohol.

Father John's Medicine is a blending of highest grade medicinal cod liver oil and other valuable ingredients so prepared that its great food value is easily taken up by the system. 75 years in use.

FOR STRENGTH AFTER ILLNESS

FATHER JOHN'S MEDICINE

NO DRUGS

Tues morning

Oct. 27/31

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OAKDALE, TENN.

The Nashville Tennessean

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TUESDAY MORNING, OCT. 27, 1931.

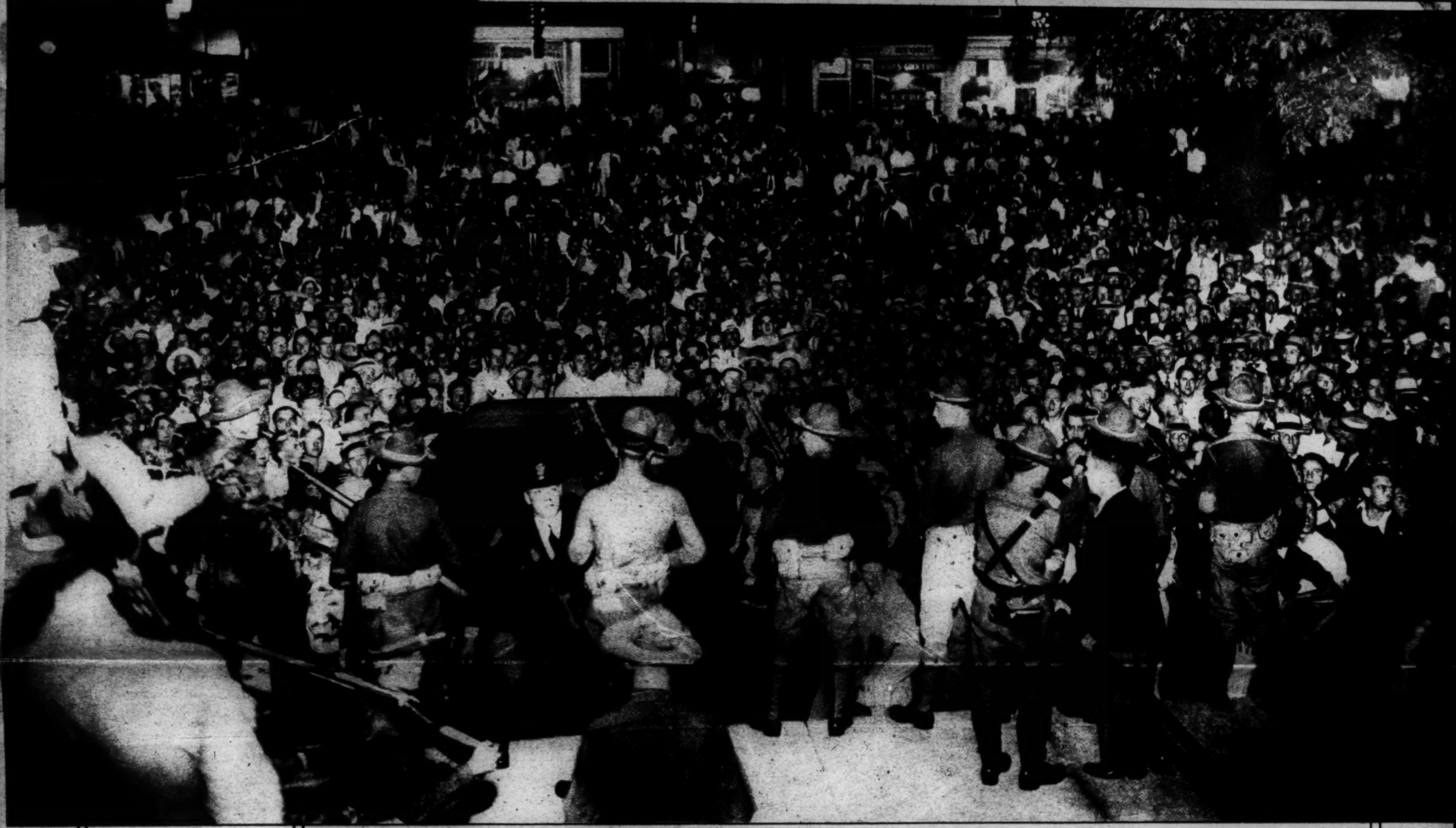
Mrs. Butler's Heroism.

The formal acknowledgment of the bravery displayed by those officers of the law who, at the risk of danger to themselves, protect the lives of prisoners entrusted to their care calls the attention of the public sharply to the heroism displayed by them.

It should be a source of pride to her community and the whole state as well that Mrs. J. B. Butler of Huntingdon is to receive a medal for defying a mob which sought to take a negro from the Carroll county jail of which she, as wife of the sheriff, was in charge.

The guilt or innocence of the prisoner was not a point at issue. It was her duty to hold him for the law and this she did, telling the mob that sought him that they would get him only over her dead body.

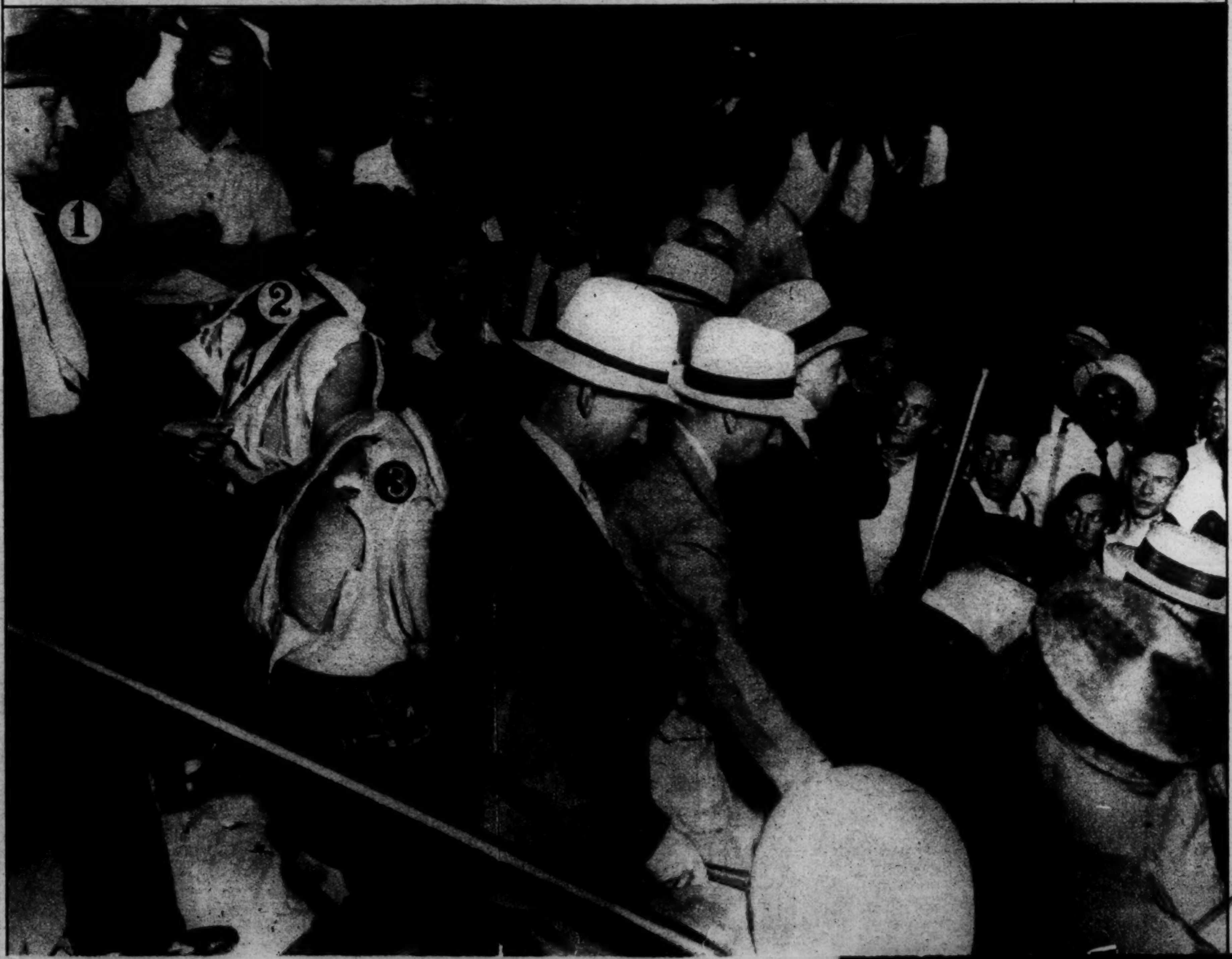
Such courage and devotion to duty are worthy of recognition and should serve as an example to other officers waited on by



VENGEANCE!—Lynch-mad mob of 15,000 at Ann Arbor, Mich., demanding lives of three who attacked, slew and burned two young high school girls and their escorts in lonely petters' lane near Ypsilanti, howl for delivery of Frank Oliver sex-twisted drug addict; Fred Smith, ex-convict; David Blackstone, savage colored giant. Only presence of armed National Guardsmen saved trio from lynching.

(NEWS photo)

* * *



THE GAUNTLET.—The getaway (on right) to Jackson Prison, Mich., to serve life sentences . . . with armed officers guarding Blackstone (1), Smith (2) and Oliver (3) . . . their ripped clothes mute testimony to the beatings they got from crowds.

(NEWS photo)

LYNCHINGS PREVENTED 1931.

Date	State	Place	Charge	Number of Persons.		What was done to save Prisoners.		
				White	Negro	Persons Removed	Guards Augmented	Ruse Used
	Alabama							
March 25		Scottsboro	Attempted Rape		9			1
April 30		Mobile	Rape		1			1
	Arkansas							
April 9		Batesville	Murder	1		1		
Aug. 10		Pine Bluff	Shooting into Picnic Party		1	1		
Sept. 12		McGhee	Murder		1	1		
	Florida							
March 21		Cassia	Murder		1	1		
March 25		Ocalla	Rape		1	1		
June 2		Palatka	Murder	1		1		
	Georgia							
Feb. 2		Rome	Murder		1	1		
April 5		Campbell County	Murder		1	1		
May 19		Elberton	Rape		6			1
Aug. 20		Douglass	Murder		1	1		
	Indiana							
July 8		Anderson	Murder		1	1		
July 8		Anderson	Robbery		1	1		
	Kentucky							
Jan. 20		Mayfield	Robbery		2	1		
Jan. 21		Hopkinsville	Murder		1			1
April 20		Hickman	Rape		1	1		
April 28		Elizabethtown	Murder		1			1
	Louisiana							
Jan. 18		Shreveport	Murder		1		1	
Jan. 26		Bogolessa	Murder		1	1		
Aug. 27		East Felicia Parish	Murder		1	1		
	Minnesota							
Sept. 7		Anoka	Attacking Girl		1	1		
	Mississippi							
Jan. 2		Quitman	Murder		1	1		
May 6		Water Valley	Murder		1			1
Feb. 24		Ocean Springs	Rape		1	1		
Aug. 18		Quitman	Robbery and wounding of man		1	1		
Aug. 26		Oxford	Murder	1		1		
	Missouri							
March		Poplar Bluff	Attempted Rape		1	1		
	North Carolina							
March		Southport	Rape		1	1		
	Ohio							
Jan.		Bucyrus	Murder		3		1	
	Oklahoma							
June 25		Wetonja	Murder		1		1	
	Oregon							
Jan. 24		Medford	Murder	1			1	
	Pennsylvania							
Jan. 14		Westchester	Murder		1		1	
	South Carolina							
Jan. 5		Lexington	Murder		1	1		
Jan. 9		Lexington	Murder	3		1		
Jan. 20		Lexington	Murder		6		1	
Jan. 31		Georgetown	Killing man in Automobile Accident	2		1		
Feb. 18		Anderson	Murder	1		1		
Sept. 14		Lockhart	Murder		1			1
July 22		Hampton	Wounding Man		1			1
	Tennessee							
April 19		Trenton	Murder		1	1		
Feb. 20		Bolivar	Murder		1	1		
June 1		Tiptonville	Rape	1			1	
July 21		Springfield	Wounding Officer		1			1
	Texas							
Jan. 31		Mt. Pleasant	Murder		1		1	
March 17		Marshall	Attempted Rape		1		1	
Aug. 7		Conroe	Murder		2		1	
	West Virginia							
Sept. 30		Clarksburg	Murder	1				1

POLICE SAVE NEGRO FROM JERSEY MOB.

Riot Squad Called When He Is Stoned in Perth Amboy, Scene of Recent Evolution Row.

Lynching Threats Made

Crowd, Hearing Girl's Screams, Drags Man From House--Held at Bay by Lieutenant's Pistol.

Special to The New York Times.

PERTH AMBOY, N. J., Feb. 18.--With drawn pistol, Police Lieutenant Frank Kasprzak saved a 25-year-old Negr, Ignatius Du Busson, from the fury of a mob which had severely beaten Du Busson and threatened to lynch him, here this afternoon.

This city was the scene of a recent evolution controversy, when "A Child's History of the World" was removed from the reference shelves of the public schools because objection had been made to the manner in which the book described the life of pre-historic man.

Only with the arrival of a motor-cycle policeman and a police riot squad, was it possible for Lieutenant Kasprzak to remove Du Busson safely to police headquarters. Some members of the crowd, it was said, had threatened to rush Kasprzak when the reserves arrived.

Du Busson, who lives in Grand Street here and has been unemployed for some time, had obtained a temporary job street cleaning from the city employment agency. He was working in Catalpa Avenue this afternoon.

He was seen going to a house near where he was working. There, according to the police, he asked a girl servant, whose name the police refused to divulge, for a drink of water. She gave it to him and when she went back into the house, he followed her, the police said.

More than a dozen men who were working in the street heard the girl screaming. They rushed into the house and found Du Busson beating the girl, according to the police version. They dragged him outside where he made a break for liberty.

As he fled, the mob pelted him with stones until a particularly heavy missile brought him down. Recapturing him, some of the members set upon him, while others advocated hanging him. Du Busson's terror-stricken screams, however, attracted the attention of the police lieutenant.

Du Busson was locked up at plice headquarters on a technical charge of disorderly conduct. He will be arraigned before Recorder Harold E. Pickersgill tomorrow. He has no previous police record.

New York Times
2/19/31

Lynching Prevented

PAL OF LYNCHED NEGRO GUARDED

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 13 (By International News Service).--Police here today are attempting to unravel complications which have arisen as a result of the lynching at Maryville, Mo., yesterday of Raymond Gunn, Negro, accused of attacking and murdering Velma Coulter, rural school teacher, on December 16.

Gunn, who was said to have confessed the crime, implicated Paul Shike Smith, 31, Negro, just before he was burned to death at the scene of the crime.

Omaha police were warned that ten car loads of Missourians were en route to get Smith. Smith was arrested, and police began immediately to investigate the possibility of his connection with the murder.

After their investigations and a check-up with Prosecutor Rathburn, of Maryville, police here are convinced that Smith had no connection with the crime, although he was working in Maryville at the time and have taken steps to protect him from lynchers.

Police are also investigating evidence tending to connect Gunn with the Omaha axe murders of 1928. Gunn was suspected of these gruesome murders at the time, but denied them. Police claim to have evidence, however, that Gunn was in Omaha at that time.

New York Journal
1/13/31

Not Included in Compiled
List (2)

NEGRO ESCAPES LYNCHING AS JAMAICA POLICE ROUT 250

Tipsy Waiter Held After Rescue for Striking 5 Women.

A mob of 250 persons attempted to lynch an intoxicated Negro at Sutphin Boulevard and Ninety-seventh Avenue, Jamaica, Queens, yesterday afternoon after he struck five women and knocked down a white man who tried to hald him. A score of policemen were required to save him from the mob, members of which were shouting "Lynch him" and "Get a rope around his neck" while they beat him severely.

The Negro, who gave his name as Joseph Chestnutt, twenty-eight years old, a waiter at the Aqueduct race track, was arrested on charges of third degree assault and intoxication.

Lieutenant Smith received a call at Jamaica station at 6 p.m. that a maniac was attacking a group of people at Sutphin Boulevard and Ninety-seventh Avenue and immediately sent twenty men under Sergeant Dooley to the scene. They found Patrolman Dougherty vainly trying to rescue Chestnutt from the mob.

The Negro's attackers gave way before Dooley's squad and Chestnutt was taken to a police booth at 101st Avenue and the boulevard, about which the police threw a cordon to hold back the threatening mob. When a patrol wagon arrived Chestnutt marched between two lines of policemen to the van and was taken to the station. The assault charge was preferred by John A. Hartwein of 102 Brisbane Street, Jamaica, whom the Negro had knocked down. Four stitches were taken in Hartwein's lower lip.

New York Herald-Tribune,
4/27/31

MOB FAILS TO REMOVE NEGRO FROM PRISON

Willie Jackson, Who Attempted To Attack Teacher was Wanted

A mob, estimated to number from two to three hundred, failed in an effort to batter down the steel door to the Colquitt County jail Tusesday nite, and get possession of Willie Jackson, negro, who was held in the jail on the charge of attempting to attack a young lady member of the faculty of the Berlin school as she was driving to her work Tuesday morning.

It is said that the young lady was in the habit of driving from her home in the Autreyville section to her school at Berlin every morning and that Jackson, a 24-year-old Negro farm hand who had been working near the road, on Tuesday morning placed two logs across the road in an effort to stop the car. The young lady drove across the first log before observing the second, and as she slowed down the car the Negro attempted to jump on the running board of the car, but the young lady speeded up the car, drove over the second log and escaped. Upon arriving at Berlin she reported what had happened, and a large pose of citizens was soon formed and went to the scene to search for the culpret. Sheriff Beard of Colquitt county was also notified and left at once for the scene. Upon arriving he immediately found several clues and soon had the Negro Jackson under arrest, who confessed to placing the logs across the highway.

The mob which formed in Moultrie Tuesday night for the purpose of attempting to get possession of the Negro is said to have consisted of two or three hundred men, but lacked leadership or concerted plan of action. A group of the men are said to have gone to Sheriff Beard and demanded the keys. The sheriff is said to have refused the demand, and standing on the jail steps is said to have made a short talk to the crowd, explaining that the Negro was under arrest and in jail, and that it was his duty as an officer of the law to see that he was protected until the courts could dispose of the charge against him.

About nine o'clock a small group of men are said to have made an attack on the jail door with a heavy iron bar, but this did not continue long and only resulted in springing the door slightly.

Pavo Georgia News
12-3-31
Pavo, Georgia

DEAD LINE RELEASE.....1 February 9, 1931.

R.B. Eleaz

SENTENCED TO DEATH AS TROOPS GUARD COURT

Paducah, Ky., Feb.___(By The Associated Negro Press) With detachments of two companies of the Kentucky National Guard patrolling the McCracken County courthouse and grounds to prevent possible mob violence, Sam McGee was tried and convicted of the murder of Charles Clark, a white youth, and sentenced to die in the electric chair April 10.

When arrested McGee declared that when he was brought to trial he would present an alibi, which would be substantiated by reputable white citizens, that he was not in the vicinity of the scene of the murder. This testimony was not introduced at the trial, nor was any other presented in his defense.

The prisoner, heavily guarded, entered a formal plea of not guilty and an attorney was appointed to "defend him". Just what the defense might have been was not disclosed as only the testimony of the state witnesses was taken. McGee was positively identified by the white witnesses who told of the attempted holdup which resulted in the slaying of the white youth on January 17 and the case was turned over to the jury about three thirty o'clock, Thursday afternoon. After deliberating for one hour the verdict of guilty as charged was returned by the jury.

McGee was brought here from Hopkinsville early Thursday morning guarded by a detachment of troops. The bus in which he was brought here drew up to the side entrance of the courthouse and there the party was joined by another company of soldiers and he was rushed to the courtroom.

More than three hundred people milled about the courthouse but the presence of the armed troops prevented any outbreak or any attempt to take the prisoner. Two troopers were stationed at the entrance to the courthouse who searched everybody entering the building. Another guard was stationed on the judge's bench and others at various points throughout the corridors and courtroom and a full company patrolled the grounds surrounding the building.

Following the sentence McGee, under heavy guard, was returned to Eddyville, where he will be kept until his execution, April 10. No appeal will be made according to present plans and no clemency is expected.

When McGee was arrested a determined effort was made to lynch him. Hundreds of angry armed men scoured two counties and searched jails in quest of their prey, but officers succeeded in eluding the blood-thirsty whites and carried him to Hopkinsville where the sheriff sent word to the mob to "come on and get him", and the same time advising them that a "hot time was in store for them" if they accepted the invitation. Machine guns were mounted at the jail and the detail of deputies reenforced and armed with tear gas bombs. The mob did not accept the challenge.

McGee, en route to Eddyville, is reported to have again declared that he was innocent of the crime. He was indicted when George Rock, a white man, identified him as the man who shot Clarke during the holdup and Rock again identified him as the slayer at the trial. During the shooting when Clarke was killed Rock was wounded and Milton Risby was killed.

ALLEGED SLAYER ACQUITTED WHEN PROSECUTION FAILS

Memphis, Tenn., Feb.___(By The Associated Negro Press) When the state's star witness was "rendered infamous" and was declared incapable of testifying, Judge Harsh, here Wednesday directed a verdict of not guilty for Albert Flowers, charged with the murder of Colbert J. Shoults, a white landscape gardner, who was mysteriously shot on Ellison Avenue, November 22.

The state's ace in the hole was one Henry Mews, who was to testify that Flowers had told him on the day of the killing that he had shot and killed a drunken white man on Ellison Avenue. The questioning of the witness divulged that he had served two years in prison on a larceny charge and had been rendered incapable of giving testimony in any courts and his citizenship had not been restored.

Attorneys for the defendant immediately introduced a motion to exclude any testimony that Mews might give and the judge sustained the motion. Other persons testified concerning the shooting but none could definitely connect Flowers with the crime and he was acquitted.

WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

RUSH MAN TO MEMPHIS TO PREVENT LYNCHING

Memphis, Tenn., May___(By The Associated Negro Press) Will Morgan, confessed slayer of a white plantation manager at Bolivar, Tennessee, was rushed here early Wednesday morning and placed in the Shelby County Jail for safekeeping.

The killing occurred Tuesday morning when Morgan and the white man, Ben Saddler, engaged in a fight. In confessing to the crime, Morgan stated: "Mr. Saddler had been abusing me for several days and Monday I went to Mr. Jones, the owner, and told him I could not get along with Mr.Saddler and that I wanted to quit. He told me to go on back to work. Tuesday morning I was currying a mule when Mr. Saddler came in. He cursed me and struck at me with a single-tree, and I shot twice and ran."

Following the shooting of the white man, for twelve hours, a mob of more than 200 men scoured the country in quest of Morgan. He told of how during the night the mob had passed underneath a tree in which he was hiding and how at another time as he was laying in a stubble field one of the men almost stepped on him.

While members of the mob and officers were searching for him, Morgan went to a white farmer's home and surrendered. The farmer quietly notified the officers and Morgan was brought here immediately. "I was not certain that there would have been any mob violence," said Sheriff Nelms who brought the prisoner here, "but I did not want to take any chance, because feeling was running high against Morgan."

Lynchings - 1931

Alabama

3443

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes. 6

Scottsboro, Ala., Sentinel
Thursday, April 2, 1931

THE CASE OF THE NEGROES

The editor of The Sentinel is informed that the attorneys for the nine negroes being held for rape of two white girls on a train in Jackson County last Thursday will petition for a "change of venue" under the claim that newspaper stories and other propaganda have made it impossible to get a fair and unprejudiced trial in Jackson County for the negroes.

This claim is without foundation at all. The citizenship of Jackson County just wants one thing—justice. They would want the same thing for white men charged with this offense just the same as they want it for the blacks. Under most trying circumstances our citizenship has acted fairly and, we believe, most wisely. If these negroes are guilty of the heinous crime of which they are charged they should get the severest penalty of the law, is our honest opinion. If they are not guilty, they are the most mistreated so far as charges are concerned, of any men ever arrested in this county. None of the parties, either negroes or white, are residents of Jackson County. Jackson County certainly gets no pleasure out of the matter.

But in justice to The Sentinel and the article it printed last week regarding the affair, we tried very hard to temper the story down to keep from inciting the people rather than to do so. There was testimony of the two girls that was entirely too revolting to go in any paper or even be made public property. If these stories are true, these nine negroes are all guilty and should pay. The negroes have offered nothing to refute these charges except their mumbled "not guilty" answers in the court Tuesday. It is their privilege and the privilege of their attorneys at the trials next week to prove these charges false if they can do so. The citizenry of this county and this state wants these negroes to have every opportunity to prove their innocense before a verdict is rendered. If they cannot prove innocence the law is expected to do its full duty.

Next Monday should be orderly in Scottsboro in every way. A tremendous crowd will be here, most of them out of curiosity. The town will have a hundred or more soldiers in it too. Everybody is urged to keep down any and all friction with the troops. They are nice, gentlemanly young men from our neighboring counties who will carry out their every obligation to their state and country and are not sent here as "bullies" to intimidate citizens.

The Sentinel is not prejudiced. These nine negres face the gravest charges ever docketed at one time in Jackson County or Alabama. The evidence against them is corroborated and witnessed. It hardly seems possible that all evidence can be broken down, but these negroes will be given every right of defense of their own liberties and lives. Jackson County lives by the law; it will accept the settlement of this matter by the law. But we just want the world to know that these negroes were not scooped up on vague charges and slammed in jail on the pretense of a rape charge. The editor of this paper heard and saw the two poor white girls identify and point out the negroes and heard and saw the white boys who were thrown from the train and the one who was held prisoner and witnessed, he said, the wholesale rape of the two helpless white women, identify and point out every one of the nine blacks, as parties to the rape and assault. This white boy was bruised and scratched, he said by the negroes choking and beating him. The Sentinel is not trying to convict the negroes without a trial, it just resents the insinuations of those who accuse our citizenry of being acting on race prejudice, when evidence and not prejudice is what is holding and indicting these negroes.

We fail to see where a change of venue could benefit the negroes very much, if any. The testimony would be the same, and the witnesses are as well known elsewhere as in this county and court.

Athens, Ala., Courier
Thursday, April 2, 1931

REVOLTING IN LAST DECREE IS STORY OF GIRLS

Each Criminally Attacked By Six Negroes

Judge Hawkins' Primises a Special Grand Jury and Speedy Trial

In the face of a huge mob and protected by 128 bristling bayonets, the nine Negroes implicated in the attack on two young Huntsville women were spirited to the Etowah county jail at Gadsden by three National Guard companies at press time this afternoon.

The crowds was passive and seemingly knew in advance of the move the steps that were going to be taken and made no effort to molest them.

The negroes will be brought back to Scottsboro Monday when a special session of the Jackson County Grand Jury will be called to consider evidence against them on charges of statutory offense.

If true bills are returned the Negroes will go on trial at the Jackson County Circuit Court, Monday, April 6, before Judge J. A. Hawkins.

After a night of terror during which a mob of infuriated citizens milled about the Jackson county jail in a threatening mood, three companies of the Alabama National Guard protected nine negro fiends who Wednesday criminally assaulted two Huntsville girls on a coal car between Stevenson and Paint Rock.

And while the soldiers with machine guns and fixed bayonets, kept a crowd of angry men in curiosity seeking at bay, the black men, most of them young, laughed and joked in their cells as Judge J. A. Hawkins of the Jackson county circuit court conferred with the solicitor, sheriff and other authorities on the advisability of calling a special session of the grand jury.

It was understood there this afternoon that the inquisitorial body would convene Saturday to consider the cases against the negroes, six of whom are alleged by Sheriff M. L .Wann to have confessed to the crime.

If true bills are returned against them ,then it is expected that they will be brought to trial on statutory offense charges Monday, (the extreme penalty being the electric chair. In addition Haywood Patterson and Eugene Williams, said to be the worst negro character in Chattanooga, will be charged with shooting with intent to murder, lodged by Ray Thurman, of Jamestown, Va., on of the white occupants of th coal car where the offense are alleged to have been committed.

Thurman declares that th negroes fired at him fi times before he reluctant jumped from the speedin train.

The crime was one of th most horrible ever perpetrate in the United States and bot Jackson and Madison count are aroused to an extend tha justice will be demanded when the fiends are placed on trial.

Both girls are daughters of Huntsville widows. Both are in poor financial circumstances and had caught a "free" ride to Chattanooga the day before hoping to obtain employment of some nature in the larger city.

Unsuccessful in getting work they were forced to take the same type of transportation back home. They climbed aboard the train, an oil tanker, and there they ran across the seven white boys. Victoria Price, 21, one of the girls, recognized O'Dell Gladwell, of Houston, Texas, as a half-brother she had not seen for several years. It was a happy reunion and after introductions were made the group jumped off and climbed aboard a coal car where they soon were deep in conversation.

Suddenly the 12 negroes, brandishing their revolvers, leaped from a box car into the open car, cowered the white men in the corner and ordered them to leap from the train.

With the guns in their faces, five of the boys obeyed though O'Dell Gladwell, the half brother and Orville Gillie, a brave Alabama boy from Albertsville, refused.

Gladwell was pushed off onto the ladder of the car. A big black brought the butt end of a pistol down on his head and he fell to oblivion beside the rails, fortunately landing so that he was not seriously injured.

Gillie was allowed to remain on the car, after being invited by the black men to take part in the attack and refusing. He had to witness the crime.

Here's the story of the attack both Gillie and the girls told Sheriff Wann and a reporter of this newspaper.

"We were dressed in overalls. We started to climb over the car when a big negro grabbed us and pulled us back on the gravel pile. He had a big knife in his hands.

"Another man tore our overalls from our bodies and with five men holding each of us, one with an open knife in his hands ,they committed the crime.

"Near Paint Rock they attempted a second attack and were only stopped when we declared they could take our lives."

At Paint Rock, thanks to information furnished by the boys thrown from the train, the negroes, nine of them, were captured by a great crowd of citizens. Three made good their escape.—Huntsville Daily Times.

Three Negroes Held In Attack At Eufaula

Advertiser

5-6-31

EUFAULA, ALA., May 5.—(Special).—Three negroes, ranging in age from 14 to 16, were spirited away to a nearby jail Monday night after an alleged attempt of assault on an 11-year-old white girl near Guices Lake, one mile from here.

Montgomery, Ala.

Two older negroes are held as material witnesses in the case.

The girl told officers that the negroes dragged her to an old brick kiln where she broke loose from them.

No feeling of violence has been aroused over the affair.

Eufaula Negroes Sent To Reformatory For Attack

Advertiser

5-9-31

Montgomery, Ala.

EUFAULA, ALA., May 8.—(Special)—Three negro youths, Lawrence Robinson, Sam Ramey and Claude Ramey, arrested for an attempted assault upon a 11-year-old white girl here, were ordered sent to the reformatory by Judge G. O. Wallace, all being under 16 years of age.

The negroes were taken to the Clayton jail where they awaited trial.

Posse Hunts For Negro Who Attacked Woman

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 22.—(AP)—Mrs. Alice Hicks, 22, reported to police today that a negro accosted her with a pistol as she was walking through a wooded section near her home in Gate City, a suburb, and escaped after her screams attracted neighbors.

6-23-31

County deputies and possemen began a search for the negro and Sheriff James F. Hawkins requested track dogs from a prison camp.

Montgomery, Ala.

Mrs. Hicks said the negro knocked her to the ground and tore most of her clothing off before she broke free and ran down the road screaming for help.

Posse At Birmingham Seeks Negro Atacker

Advertiser

6-16-31

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 15—(AP)—A posse of between 50 and 100 armed citizens and county, and city officers searched tonight for a negro who attacked a white woman near Irondale, just east of the city, late today.

Montgomery, Ala.

Shortly before midnight, two negroes said to answer the description furnished by the woman were taken into custody and placed in jail pending further attempts at identification.

Police say the woman was attacked after she had been threatened with a shotgun in the hands of the negro. The attack occurred near her home.

Negro Is Rearrested For Attack At Birmingham

Advertiser

5-20-31

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 18.—(AP)—James Jordan, 30-year-old negro, was charged with murder and a statutory offense today following his arrest in connection with the death of a Birmingham woman and an attack on her two daughters last April.

Jordan was identified by a daughter, 17, as the negro who attacked her after crushing her mother's skull when they discovered him in their home on Red Mountain. A younger sister was beaten with rocks.

The negro was questioned several days ago but released to the city to continue serving a sentence on a minor charge. He was rearrested today by county officers.

Negro Attacks Elderly Woman

Advertiser

Miss Lula Barganier, 60, Of Fort Deposit, Beaten By Black Begging Food

9-21-31

FORT DEPOSIT, ALA., Sept. 20.—(Special.)—Knocked in the head and beaten by a negro who had begged food of her, Miss Lula Barganier, 60, was found lying unconscious on the kitchen floor of her home, one mile west of here, early today.

Montgomery.

Miss Barganier, who was found by her brother, Jesse Barganier, about 7 a. m. when he returned from a pasture some distance from the farm house, did not regain consciousness until noon. Her condition is considered serious.

The elderly woman said that shortly after her brother left the home a negro knocked on the back door and asked for food. Miss Barganier said she prepared sandwiches for the man and went to the door to give them to him when he shoved a foot inside the door and ordered her to stand back.

"I don't want anything to eat," the negro said, "I'm looking for money." The woman said she attempted to turn and run to the front door when the negro grabbed her.

Miss Barganier said she did not remember what the negro struck her with, but Sheriff W. F. Meadows said a blood-stained iron was found on the floor near the woman.

Miss Barganier suffered serious scalp wounds and bruises about the neck and arms.

The negro, whom the woman said was a stranger to her, was described as being of ginger-cake color and wearing new overalls and a striped jumper.

Bloodhounds were brought from Kilby Prison but they were unable to pick up a trail, deputies said. Several armed citizens were with sheriff's deputies searching the woods in the vicinity last night.

Miss Barganier lives with her brother and his wife, but the wife was visiting relatives today.

Woman's Attacker Escapes Possemen

Advertiser

9-20-31

FORT DEPOSIT, ALA., Sept. 21.—(Special)—No trace had been found today of the negro who yesterday severely beat Miss Lula Barganier, 60, after she had given him food.

Montgomery Ala.

A large number of citizens joined the sheriff in a widespread hunt Sunday and today, but opinion was expressed tonight by an officer that the negro had apparently eluded the searchers.

The negro, Miss Barganier said, came to her door Sunday morning and asked for food. When she handed him some sandwiches, he put his foot in the door and angrily demanded money. The elderly woman ran into the house and the negro felled her with a flatiron.

9-22-31

Jesse Barganier, her brother, found her unconscious a short time later.

Bloodhounds from Kilby Prison at Montgomery were brought to the scene and tracked down one negro. He was not identified as the attacker and was released.

Lynchings-1931
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes

Alabama.

3458

Troops Sent To Protect Negroes Held In Assault

Advertiser
3-28-31
Montgomery Ala.

Nine In Scottsboro Jail For Attacks On Two White Girls On Freight Train

Violence Is Feared

Mob Of Citizens Gathers On Streets; Guardsmen Ordered To Aid Sheriff

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., March 25.—(AP)—Nine negroes, ranging in age from 15 to 28 years, accused of attacking two girls on a freight train near here this afternoon, tonight slept peacefully in the Jackson County Jail while Sheriff M. L. Wann, nine deputies sheriff, and citizen volunteers kept watch within the jail.

A threatening crowd outside, consisting of citizens from through this mountainous area numbering up to 300 at times, gathered about the jail early tonight but a drop in temperature sent them scurrying for warmer quarters and danger of violence seemed averted.

Armed Men Picket Jail

Throughout the early part of the night, the streets about the jail were blocked with automobiles in which armed men sat watching the jail with grim faces, but Sheriff Wann sent out word that he and his deputies were prepared to resist any attempt to take the negroes from them.

The two girls, 17 and 18 years old, identified the nine negroes held here as their assailants. The girls, dressed in overalls, were "bumming" their way from Chattanooga to their homes in Huntsville after having failed to find work in Chattanooga. Seven white youths boarded the train with them at Chattanooga, they told officers.

The girls explained that 12 negro men boarded the train at Stevenson, Ala., and entered the car in which they were riding with the seven white boys. The negroes ordered their companions from the train, the girls said, soon after it left Stevenson, and a free-for-all fight ensued.

Boys Forced From Train

Six of the youths, who gave their names as J. W. Gleason, of Georgia; Lindsay Gladwell, O'Dell Gladwell, and J. C. Ferguson, of North Carolina, Ray Thurman, of Jamestown, Va., and Lester Carter, were forced from the train, while Orville Gillie, of Albertville, Ala., was struck over the head and knocked unconscious. He lay on the floor of the freight car, the girls said, while the 12 negroes attacked them.

The youths ejected from the train notified authorities at Stevenson, and Jackson County authorities, accompanied by a posse of nearly 100 armed citizens, met the train at Paint Rock. Three of the negroes had jumped off the train as it pulled into Paint Rock, and the other nine were brought here and lodged in jail.

The girls were treated by physicians here.

Negroes Confess

Sheriff Wann said tonight that all nine negroes had confessed having assaulting the two girls. They gave their names as Clarence Norris, Willie Robinson, Haywood Patterson, Andy Wright, Ray Wright, Ozie Powell, Eugene Williams, Olin Montgomery and Charles Weems.

The Montgomery negro gave his home as Knoxville, Tenn., and the others are believed to live in Chattanooga and vicinity.

Grand Jury Will Probe Charges This Morning

By ROY O'NEAL
Advertiser Staff Correspondent

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., March 26—(Thursday)—Judge J. A. Hawkins, of the Jackson County Circuit Court, said early today that a special Grand Jury would be called Thursday morning to consider the charges against the nine negroes held in jail here in connection with assaults upon two young white girls.

With a promise that speedy justice would be meted out to the negroes, the probability that the law would be allowed to take its course grew stronger this morning.

Judge Hawkins said the Grand Jury would meet immediately. If the negroes are indicted, he said, they would go on trial as soon as possible.

His announcement had a quieting effect upon the throngs of armed men milling about the jail at 1 a.m. today, still threatening mob violence.

Miller Sends Guardsmen To Reinforce Officers

Gov. Miller ordered detachments totaling between 60 and 70 men, drawn from National Guard companies at Albertville and Guntersville, to Scottsboro last night to reinforce the sheriff and his deputies there in maintaining order in the town where the nine negroes are held charged with assaulting two white girls.

About 8:30 last night Sheriff M. L. Wann telephoned Gov. Miller and asked that troops be sent as a precautionary measure against any possible attempt at violence.

Gov. Miller called State Adjt. Gen. Hartley A. Moon, who hurried to his office and communicated with commanding officers of the National Guard units at Guntersville and Albertville. The troops were mobilized promptly and sent to Scottsboro. These troops consist of detachments from Battalion Headquarters Company and Company E, 167th Infantry, Guntersville, and Company G of the same regiment, with headquarters at Albertville.

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3 More Negroes Held For Attack

Advertiser
3-26-31
Montgomery Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., March 28.—(AP)—Three negroes placed in jail here today, whom police believe escaped at Paint Rock Wednesday when nine negroes were arrested for attacking two young Huntsville white girls, will be questioned by Sheriff M. L. Wann of Jackson County tomorrow.

The sheriff notified Huntsville authorities today he would bring two of the seven white youths held as material witnesses to view the negroes. He was to have reached here tonight but was delayed because of another investigation.

The negroes gave their names as Nathan Todd, J. D. Hill and Lindy Williams, of Birmingham, and said they had hoboed to Paducah, Ky., but returned South in the face of cold weather.

Meanwhile nine other negroes, arrested Wednesday charged with throwing five white youths from a Southern Railway freight train near Stevenson, Ala., and attacking the girls after knocking two other white youths unconscious, are in the Etowah County Jail at Gadsden.

The Jackson County Grand Jury will meet in special session Monday to investigate charges against the negroes.

Victims Identify Negro Assailant

Advertiser
4-5-31
Montgomery Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 4.—(AP)—Will "Soldier Boy" Jones, negro convict, who recently made good his ninth escape, was sought tonight for a murderous assault on a white woman and her two daughters late yesterday.

Police announced tonight that the negro had been identified by two of the victims from photographs. They believe his place of hiding was known and possemen were believed closing in on him.

Mrs. C. A. Allen and her daughter, Sarah, 6, were beaten into insensibility with rocks, and another daughter, Lillie Mae, 17, criminally attacked.

Mrs. Allen suffered a fractured skull and little hope is held for her recovery.

The attack took place at the Allen residence on Red Mountain, near the Birmingham Gun Club, of which Allen is caretaker.

The negro was discovered in the house by Mrs. Allen and the girls.

Opp, Ala., News
Thursday, March 26, 1931

Twelve Negroes Attack White Girls On Freight

Nine Of The Twelve In Scottsboro Jail Where Guardsmen Protect From Citizens

FORCE WHITE BOYS OFF TRAIN TO MAKE ATTACK

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New Bern, N. C. New Bernian
Saturday, April 11, 1931

DOOMED NEGROES STAGE RIOT IN ALABAMA JAIL

Sheriff Believes Disorder Was Part Of Attempt To Escape

GADSDEN, Ala., April 10.—(AP)—Precaution was taken tonight to prevent a recurrence of rioting by eight negroes in the Etowah county jail who were condemned to die for assaults upon two white girls.

The negroes became disorderly after they were brought here from Scottsboro where they were sentanced to death yesterday They said they were protesting against their sentences, but Sheriff P. L. Griffin said he believed they were trying to lure the jailer into their cell to overpower him and escape.

The negroes tore up bedding and shouted curses against the court and citizens. They were subdued by guards and placed in irons.

While the riot was in progress Trial Judge J. A. Hawkins reiterated that he would welcome investigation of their cases. An inquiry into the trial had been announced in a telegram sent to the judge by International Labor Defense in New York.

"I still say that I will welcome any investigation of the trial they want to make, Judge Hawkins said.

The Labor Defense telegram said an attorney was being sent to aid the negroes and demanded "absolute safety for the defendants against lynching."

GADSDEN, Ala., April 10.—(AP)—Protesting against their sentences, eight negroes condemned to death at Scottsboro yesterday for attacking two white girls rioted in the Etowah county jail today but were subdued by guards who placed them in irons.

The negroes, who were returned here under military escort after being sentenced for attacking the girls traveling as hoboes aboard a freight train, shouted demands for special food, beat on the cell bars and tore up the bedding.

Oaths they hurled at the court, officers and white people generally were heard some distance from the jail, and Sheriff T. L. Griffin, who occupies an apartment on the lower floor of the jail, removed his family.

Sheriff Griffin appealed to military authorities for aid, and Col W. M. Thompson, commanding the 167th infantry, and Capt. C. C Whitehead, commanding company "F" of the 167th infantry, went to the jail.

With sufficient guards to prevent an attempted break, the "bull pen" in which the negroes were confined was opened, and guards went in and subdued the negroes, handcuffing them in pairs.

When finally quieted and asked what was the matter, one of the negroes replied, "we just don't like that deah sentence."

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
Friday, April 10, 1931

PROTEST AGAINST TRIAL OF NEGROES

Three Telegrams From New York Received By Alabama Governor.

Montgomery, Ala., April 10. (AP)—Governor B. M. Miller said today he had received three telegrams from New York organizations protesting against the trials of nine negroes at Scottsboro for attacking two girls.

He had no comment to make.

The International Iabor Defense sent one of the telegrams, demanding stay of execution and protesting "this legal lynching."

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights, of New York, sent a telegram signed by B. D. Amis, president, charging the trials were a "deliberate frameup."

The third message was signed Robert W. Dunn, president of the Anti-Imperialist League of the United States. It demanded the unconditional release of "these workers."

Gov. Miller Offers Reward For Woman's Assailant

Advertiser

4-10-31

A reward of $200 was offered yesterday by the State of Alabama for the arrest and conviction of the negro who last week criminally assaulted a young woman at Birmingham, murdered her mother, and crushed the skull of her six-year-old sister. The reward was granted by Gov. Miller upon petition of the sheriff of Jefferson County and the solicitor, who stated they had cause to believe the man who committed the crime was Will Jones, alias "Soldier Boy Jones."

In another order Gov. Miller authorized a reward of $100 for the arrest and conviction of Beatie Legg, an ex-convict who on March 30 shot and killed William Shinpock, a farmer in Limestone County near Athens. Shinpock was shot down while attending to the feeding of his stock and in the presence of his six-year-old son and a friend, according to the report to Gov. Miller. Legg, it was reported, accused Shinpock of opening a gap in the fence about his farm, and upon Shinpock's denial, fired five bullets into his body. Legg was reported to be mentally unbalanced, and had twice been convicted of felonious offenses.

Negro Robber's Victim Is Dead

Advertiser 4-6-31

Birmingham Woman Who Surprised Intruder In Home Dies In Hospital

Montgomery Ala

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., April 5.—(AP)—Mrs. C. A. Allen, wounded last Friday when she and her two daughters were beaten by a negro whom they had surprised robbing their home, died in a local hospital tonight.

The two daughters, Lillie Mae, 17, and Sarah, 6, still were in a serious condition.

Meanwhile, Birmingham police were advised of the arrest in Haleyville, Ala., five miles North of here, of a negro said to answer the description of Willie "Soldier Boy" Jones, sought for questioning in connection with the attack on the woman and the two girls.

Lillie Mae Allen yesterday identified a picture of Willie Jones as the man who attacked her. Police said the negro is an escape from a prison road camp.

Two other negroes were arrested with the suspect at Haleyville, police here said. In addition, four negroes still are in custody here.

Meanwhile, several deputies sheriff and armed citizens continued their search of the wooded sections near the Allen home.

Assault Charged.

Constitution 6-4-31

MOBILE, Ala., June 3.—(AP)—The grand jury of the Mobile circuit court today returned an indictment today against Charles Williams, a negro, charging him with a criminal assault on a [illegible] Mobile schoolgirl.

Lynchings-1931

Arkansas

3459

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

SEEK NEGRO FOR ATTACK

Commercial Appeal

Locks Helena Woman in Room Bu

5-28-31

Is Frightened Away

Memphis, Tenn

WEST HELENA, Ark., May 27.—Sheriff J. C. Barlow and deputies were searching this afternoon for Willie Davis, 26, negro, alleged to have attempted to attack a 30-year-old woman here this morning.

The woman, wife of a mill worker at Pekin Wood Products Company, reported to Chief of Police J. J. Johnson that the negro, who had been working for her husband for the past month, had locked her in her room and threatened her this morning after the rest of the family had gone away.

When he attempted to attack her she screamed. The negro glaned out the window and saw her two small brothers, 12 and 14 years old, returning from town. He ran out of town toward the Coolidge bottoms.

The negro is described as five feet, six inches tall, weight 150 pounds, black with kinky hair. At the time of his escape he was wearing blue overalls with gray patch pockets, gray shirt and old black shoes.

Sheriff Barlow this afternoon notified officers at West Memphis, where it is thought his relatives reside, to be on the lookout for the negro.

Lynchings-1931

Georgia

3460

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes

CONVICTED NEGRO JAILED AT TOWER

5-29-31

Downer To Be Kept Here Until Removal to State Farm

Atlanta, Ga.

John Downer, Elbert county negro, convicted at Elberton Tuesday night on a charge of attacking a young woman and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Milledgeville June 15, was held at the Fulton tower Wednesday, Elbert county authorities indicating that Downer will be kept here until transferred to the state prison farm.

The negro was returned to Atlanta after his conviction by a detachment of 300 soldiers of the 122d infantry sent to Elberton to guard the trial. The troops were in command of Colonel Gerald P. O'Keeffe, the regimental commander.

Three other negroes, arrested in and near Elberton in connection with the case and who were taken to the trial, also were brought back to Atlanta by Colonel O'Keeffe and are held in the tower pending direction from Sheriff Burch Seymour. Two others, brought here immediately after the attack, also were being held, but it is expected that they will be released in a day or two.

Downer was convicted by an Elbert county jury on the first ballot. The jurors required only six minutes to reach their decision.

NEGRO JAILED IN BIBB FOLLOWING ASSAULT

6-11-31

FORT VALLEY, Ga., June 10.—Robert Lee Wilson, 23, negro, tonight was lodged safely in Bibb county jail in Macon, following his arrest and identification in connection with an attack and attempted assault on a young white woman shortly after noon about five miles from Fort Valley.

Atlanta, Ga.

The young woman, who, with her husband, had been engaged in picking peaches on a near-by orchard, had gone to a spring, she said, when a negro, concealed in the bushes close by, leaped from his hiding place and attacked her. Her husband, she said, was in Fort Valley at the time.

The negro fled, it was reported, when a farmer heard the young woman's screams and came to her rescue. A posse of about 150 men was hurriedly formed and Wilson was captured four hours later, hiding in a swamp. Early Cheek, who found the negro, turned him over to the Peach county sheriff, who took him immediately to Macon for safe-keeping.

ATTEMPTED ASSAULT CHARGED TO NEGRO

IRWINTON, Ga., June 8.—(AP)—Sheriff Thurman Sanders said today he has placed Leroy Whipple, 15-year-old negro, in the Bibb county jail at Macon on a charge of attempted criminal assault on a young white woman. The negro has confessed, the officer said, and was removed to Macon because of the reported formation of a mob at McIntyre, Ga.

NEGRO IS SHOT AFTER ATTACK

10-12-31

Fred Hunt Fires at Man Who Accosts Young Girl

WAYCROSS, Ga., Oct. 11.—The guilt for an alleged criminal attack on a young white girl near here Friday afternoon today was placed on Ed Cooper, Negro, who is held in the Ware county jail.

Cooper is suffering from gunshot injuries that probably will prove fatal. He was shot by Fred Hunt, young white man, according to Mr. Hunt.

The attack occurred north of Waycross in a wooded section. The girl, about 12 years old, accompanied by a seven-year-old brother, had been sent to Waycross for a can of kerosene, and the two children were returning to their home, when they were accosted by a Negro man, according to authorities.

The Negro grabbed the girl, threw her on the ground, tore her clothing, and threatened to cut her throat if she did not refrain from yelling, she said. An automobile passed on a nearby road, and the Negro was frightened away, being in full flight through a pecan grove when Mr. Hunt appeared.

Mr. Hunt said he ordered the Negro to stop, but when unobeyed, opened fire with buckshot. The Negro was shot in the back, several shots penetrating his body. Physicians are of the opinion that while death may be slow, there is no hope for the prisoner's recovery.

ATTEMPTED ASSAULT CHARGED TO NEGRO

Constitution

MOULTRIE, Ga., Dec. 1.—(AP)—Willie Jackson, negro, who is alleged to have attempted to criminally attack a member of the faculty of the Berlin Consolidated school while she was driving to her work Tuesday morning, was captured by Sheriff T. V. Beard and had been in jail here for more than three hours before a large posse of citizens knew that he was under arrest.

12-2-31

Tuesday afternoon when the sheriff went to the jail a crowd of more than 100 dashed into the jail yard under the impression that the negro was being moved from Moultrie. Sheriff Beard Tuesday night said, however, that he did not believe that any would be made to storm the

Illinois.

3461

Lynchings-1931

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Negroes Loot Homes, Attack 2 Women, Girl

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL., March 14.—(AP)—Two women and a 16-year-old girl were criminally attacked last night and four homes terrorized by two negroes who forced their way into the homes at pistol point. They were not apprehended.

One of the women was seized while kneeling before her bed in prayer and attacked, while her husband, bound to a chair and gagged, was forced to watch.

The other woman and the girl were assaulted in a room where two other women and a 13-year-old girl were held prisoners by the negroes. The husbands of three of the women were gagged and bound with wire in another room.

In each of the places the negroes ransacked the house, stealing jewelry, table silver, and cash. The first public knowledge of the crimes came at noon today from Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Doyle, of St. Clair County. At the same time James Leahy, chief of police here, and George Byrnes, chief of detectives, said they had no knowledge of the robberies and assaults.

Advertiser

In one of the homes a party was in progress, and the negro pair knocked on the door. Thinking it was more guests arriving, the host opened the door and was confronted with the pistols of the negroes. The negroes ripped out light wires and bound the men to chairs. They then took rings, money, watches, and keys from everybody.

3-15-31

At another home where the owner's wife was ill, the negroes knocked at the door. The resident arose from the table where he was reading the Bible and admitted them. The robbers bound the man and entered the wife's bedroom where she was kneeling in prayer. She was criminally assaulted.

Montgomery, Ala.

As the negroes entered the yard of another home, the resident saw them tie handkerchiefs over their [illegible] and he procured his revolver. The revolver was accidentally discharged as the negroes knocked on the door and they fled without entering.

ST. LOUIS SEEKS NEGRO MARAUDERS IN VAIN

Constitution 3-16-31

Police Fail To Catch Perpetrators of Friday Night Series of Outrages.

Atlanta, Ga.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., March 15.—(AP)—An intensive search for two negroes who invaded three homes here Friday night, criminally attacking two women and a young girl and robbing the homes of money and jewelry, netted the police only two suspects today. They were later released.

The negroes were believed to be the same pair which terrorized Hickman, Ky., last week. One was tall and the other short. The taller had a missing front tooth, corresponding to a similar detail in the appearance of the larger negro sought by Hickman authorities.

Although the crimes were committed Friday night, they were not made public until yesterday at noon. Police refused to comment on the crimes today, beyond the statement that they were searching the city.

Two negro suspects taken into custoday last night were released when it was found they did not correspond to the descriptions of the robbers.

Lynchings-1931

Kentucky

3462

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Negro Attackers Identified By 17

Advertiser

4-13-31

LOUISVILLE, KY., April 12.—(AP)—Seventeen persons, including most of the witnesses, today identified Charles Rodgers, 22, and Walter Holmes, 30, as the two negroes who attacked two women near Hickman, Ky., and two women and a 16-year-old girl at East St. Louis, Ill., last month.

Montgomery

The negroes, with Walter Dewberry, another negro, were in jail here charged with slaying Thomas Tillery, Hardin County, Ky., farmer, last Wednesday after a series of robberies in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

Ala

Thirteen of the witnesses were from East St. Louis and four from Fulton, Ky. All said they were positive in their identification.

Harry Mason, one of the East St. Louis party, struck Rodgers when he was brought before Mrs. Mason and knocked him to the floor. Police prevented further trouble.

Before starting the identification, police searched all members of the party and found two pistols, one of them loaded. Names of the persons carrying the weapons were withheld.

Mrs. J. W. Midkiff, of East St. Louis, fainted when she saw the negroes. She was revived by jail officials.

EVIDENCE HELD INSUFFICIENT IN RAPE CASE

Informer

4-4-31

Houston, Texas

Fulton, Ky.—(ANP)—The failure of the police authorities at East St. Louis, Illinois, to identify two men returned here from Garrett, Pennsylvania, as the bandits who robbed several homes in that city and raped two white women here, robbed local hot-heads and fire-brands of an opportunity to stage a lynching party.

The men were arrested March 18 and were positively identified over telephone by local police as the men wanted here and in East St. Louis. Officers were dispatched to the Pennsyivania town and extradition was sought and after a bitter fight on the part of the man, the suspects were turned over to the East St. Louis officers.

Upon their arrival there, those who had suffered at the hands of the bandits declared that the suspects were not their assailants, and they were released. When the report was received here that the men had been identified, Sheriff Johnson decided that it was not necessary to go to the Illinois town as he was positive the crimes committed there were by the same men who terrorized this town.

When they were granted their freedom, the men quietly but hastily left for parts further North and as one of them put it "where the atmosphere was a bit more helpful, healthful, and conducive to life, liberty, and the pursuit of hippiness."

NEGROES IDENTIFIED IN CASE OF ASSAULT

Constitution

4-12-31

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., April 11.—(AP)—Police here today announced that Charles [illegible], 22, and Walter Holmes, alias Jack Strong, 30, negroes held at Louisville for safekeeping after confessing the murder of an Elizabethtown, Ky., farmer, have been identified from protographs as the negroes who criminally assaulted two women and a 16-year-old girl here March 13.

Atlanta, Ga.

Lynchings-1931

Louisiana

3463

Rape; Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

NEGRO SERVANT SLAIN BY NEW ORLEANS GIRL

Constitution

7-31-31

Atlanta, Ga.

NEW ORLEANS, July 30.—(AP) Miss Josie Baragona, 17, today shot and killed a 20-year-old negro yard boy who, she said, had made improper advances.

Police said they learned that the young woman, who lived with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ferre[illegible] w[illegible] alone [illegible]er bedroom when [illegible] yard boy, Louis Davis, entered the hous[illegible] Miss Baragona rep[illegible] that [illegible] made impro[illegible] [illegible]ces she fled into the yard, snatching up [illegible] revolver on her way. When he follow[illegible] she said, she fired, killing him instantly with a bullet in the breast.

Prisoner Identified As Attacker Of Two Girls

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

SHREVEPORT, LA., July [illegible].—(AP)—Roy Howard, arrested yesterday near Greenwood, and now a prisoner in Caddo Parish Jail, was identified today, police said, as the man who committed several robberies and two attacks upon young girls in Texarkanna, El Dorado and Camden, Ark., and Mindennla, earlier in the week.

8-1-31

Watches obtained after his arrest were identified by Mayor H. L. Bridges, of Minden and P. J. McCarthy, of Texarkanna at the State Bureau of Identification offices.

GIRL KILLS NEGRO

Advertiser

7-31-31

Montgomery, Ala.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., July 30.—(AP)—After warning a negro yard boy to desist from improper advances, Miss Josie Baragona, 17, today seized a pistol and shot and killed the negro in her home when he persisted and advanced on her with threats.

Lynchings-1931

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Maryland

3464

SEXY SPOUSE OF FARMER LOSES "RAPE" CASE

Afro-American

Court Disbelieves Story of How She Bore Colored Child

Baltimore,

FARM HAND FREED

Md.

Husband's Ire Nearly Caused Lynching

1-17-31

(Special to the AFRO)

ROCKVILLE, Md. — This little community is again breathing easy following the passing of the lynching spectre which hovered over the Montgomery County jail where Dick Hall was incarcerated on charges of rape preferred by Mrs. Annie Brooks, white, 24-year-old wife of Hall's former employer.

All the elements of a Walter White interracial love romance are found in this drama of real life which took place in a four-room bungalow two miles east of Poolesville where Jim Brooks, white farmer, and his wife live peacefully with their alleged mulatto child, aged two, until a few months ago.

There would never have been any rupture in the marital relations of the Brooks family had not a brother of the husband, Richard Brooks, white, came from the South on a hunting trip. He took a positive dislike to the child, declaring that it was not his brother's child at all, but possessed Negro blood.

The husband turned a deaf ear to his brother's allegations until the news came to his ears that Dick Hall, his erstwhile farm hand, had gotten drunk at a speakeasy in Poolesville and was boasting that he had "a white woman who had borne him a child."

The farmer faced his wife with these facts and, being convinced that something was wrong concerning his supposed offspring, put her out of the house and sent her home to her father, Frank Titus, white, from whose home he had stolen her as a 14-year-old girl, eight years previously. He then entered suit for divorce, naming Dick Hall as the father of his wife's child.

Tells Hubby of Rape.

The farm hand would have experienced no worse fate had not father Titus tired of his daughter living with him and bundled her up one night and carried her back to her husband's humble dwelling where he was living as a bachelor.

Jim would have nothing to do with his returned spouse and at her request consented to carry her back to town. What wiles the wife exercised on her husband in the course of that two-mile journey in an ancient Ford car is not known, but he leaped into another car upon reaching town and dashed madly about until he found the sheriff of Poolesville and started a man hunt for Dick Hall.

Threats of Mob Violence.

Before morning, the community was agog with excitement. White men were in arms. Negro residents kept to their homes. Relations were strained. There was talk of lynching the farm hand and that might have materialized had not he been

Afro-American

spirited off to the Rockville jail for safe keeping.

Baltimore Md

"Rape" Three Years Old.

The explanation of it all was found in the statement of Jim Brooks to the sheriff:

1-17-31

"My wife just told me that Dick Hall raped her three years ago before that child was born, and threatened to kill her if she ever told me about it. I love my wife and believe she's telling the truth."

During the whole period that Hall was kept in jail, threats of mob violence persisted. Jailers lived in constant fear that a posse of determined men, out to avenge the insult to the honor of their fellow-citizen's wife, would call and demand the prisoner. The trial was therefore speeded up.

Told of Love Affair.

On the witness stand Hall told such a straight story of how he accepted the advances of his employer's young wife who invited him in while her husband was in the far end of the timber section, and how he held rendezvous with her during her husband's absences long after he had left their employment, that the jury refused to believe the wife's story of how the farm hand held her in fear of her life and made her life a living hell by his unsolicited and repulsive love making.

Hall was acquitted with instructions to leave the county and never be caught within the boundary limits again.

The verdict also carried with it a warning, expressed by white men outside the courtroom, that the averted lynching will materialize should he come back

Hall is said to be either in Baltimore or Washington where he has relatives, and tranquility has again been restored in Western Maryland.

A Negro Did It

Afro-American

Mrs. Edna Moyer, 27, white, and her three children were attacked by the husband and father with an ax and seriously injured last week in Baltimore.

2-7-31

Moyer told police that he found a strange colored man in his home who had assaulted his wife and children, that he, Moyer, brave and stalwart, took the ax from the intruder and in repelling the black invader, accidently injured his own famliy.

Baltimore, Md

At the hospital, Mrs. Moyer told a different story. She said that her husband had never left the house; that he had sent her for cigarettes; that on her return he had attacked her and their son, ill with pneumonia, with an ax. The children back up the story of their mother.

Baltimore police put Moyer behind the bars, where he has attempted suicide.

White criminals and morons have blamed their crimes on "a Negro" so frequently that even police, dull as they generally are, are not fooled so often as they used to be.

Lynchings-1931

Massachusetts

3465

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes

GIRLS DENY. RAPED

Guardian

WHITE GIRLS SAY NO ASSAULT BY COLORED MEN—MEN WERE "FRAMED" — BEFORE MASS. PAROLE BOARD ONE TESTIFIES THAT POLICE INTIMIDATED AND PUT TESTIMONY IN HER MOUTH AGAINST COLORED MEN—COLORED MAN A MEMBER OF PAROLE BOARD—COLORED ATTORNEY SHOWS DECEASED GIRL SAID MEN INNOCENT

10-18-31

On Tuesday, Attorney Henry E. Quarles appeared before the Massachusetts Board of Parole representing Charles S. Phippen and Charles H. Foster who were sentenced to State Prison for terms of 2½ to 3½ years and 7 to 10 years respectively for assault with intent to rape two white girls under fourteen years of age, in March 1930.

Boston, Mass.

Some time ago Phippen and Foster through Attorney Quarles filed petitions for pardon with the Governor and the hearing was based on an affidavit signed by Violet Pentabone, one of the girls whom the men are alleged to have attacked that the story she told in court was false. The other girl Elizabeth Ieradi died about six months after the men were sentenced.

Directed What to Say by Police

Under examination by Atty. Quarles, the Pentabone girl told the Parole Board that much of her original testimony at the trial of Phippen and Foster was put in her mouth by the police. She alleged that the Newton Police officers who had investigated the case threatened her if she did not testify as she did in court according to instructions. The officers however appeared before the Board and denied that she had been threatened.

Intimidated at Hearing

On being intimidated by the Parole Board and warned that she need not give any testimony which might incriminate her in the future, the girl did not deny that her testimonay at the trial had been untrue, but refused to answer any further questions which might incriminate her. Counsel for the men then withdrew the affidavit explaining that he did not wish to take advantage of a child who was not represented by counsel especially as the affidavit was incriminating in view of the recent action taken by the authorities in Middlesex County in a similar case of repudiated testimony, and summoned her as his witness.

Pleaded Guilty to Escape Hard Fate

The alleged attack took place in a West Newton House which was occupied by Phippen and Foster. Both men told the board that the girls had visited their house voluntarily to sell salve; and made a complete denial that they had ever attempted to assault the girls, and told the board that they had entered a plea of guilty after the Pentabone girl had testified at the trial on advice of their counsel (white) that if found guilty they would receive sentences of from 40 years to life. They also told the Board that the families of both girls have no hard feelings toward them and much evidence was adduced to support this contention, including a letter from the deceased girl's sister to Phippen.

One Girl Died of Broken Heart Because Men Framed

According to Atty. Quarles, Miss Ierardi the deceased denied the attack in Lower Court and insisted that both men were innocent therefore she was not called when the men were sentenced in the Superior Court. Testimony was offered before the Board to show that she died of a broken heart as a result of these men being framed. The Pentabone girl testified before the Board that just before the Ierardi girl died the Ierardi girl said it's a shame for these two Colored men to be in prison for something that we know they did not do to us, and I am going to do all I can to help get them out.

Police Tried to Frame Boys

One witness Arthur Cormier (white) told the board that he had often visited the home of Phippen and Foster in company with his sister, and that the police of Newton tried to make his sister testify against Phippen and Foster, the police calling them "Big Black ——."

The decision of the Parole Board is expected to be in the hands of the Governor within a week. Matthew Bullock, Colored attorney, is a member of the Parole Board.

Lynchings-1931

Mississippi

3466

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes

CHILD IDENTIFIES NEGRO

Commercial Appeal
5-5-31

Suspect At Meridian Vigorously Denies Attempted Attack.

MERIDIAN, Miss., May 4.—The little 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Lane has positively identified Josh Pringle, 27-year-old negro, as her assailant. The negro was arrested Monday by G. H. Allen, county traffic officer, and Luther Scarbrough, Southern Railroad special agent, and placed in the Lauderdale County jail. He vigorously denies the charge.

Memphis
Tenn

The attempted attack was made on the child Sunday morning when she was sent on an errand by her mother. When she was within 100 yards of her home on the Quitman Highway, four miles from Meridian, the negro grabbed the child and was dragging her into the woods when her screams brought her father to her rescue. The negro fled and although a posses of more than 100 armed men devoted all of Sunday to the man hunt, the trail was lost at the railroad yards and the posse disbanded.

The child was not injured save for bruises on her neck and shoulder, where her assailant grabbed her.

MOBS SEEK 2 NEGROES.

Appeal
8-28-31

Amite Sheriff Spirits Both Away After Assault and Killing.

McCOMB, Miss., Aug. 27.—Two negroes, one sought by a mob for attempted assault on a woman at Coles, and another sought by angry citizens for murdering a prominent amite farmer, tonight were in unnamed jails with both groups of citizens attempting to learn their location with a view of taking the law into their own hands.

Memphis
Tenn

Sheriff N. B. Travis of Amite County, had just lodged Emanuel "Kid Boy" Jackson, negro, in jail at Clinton, La., for the murder of B. Bates, Amite farmer, as a mob pursued him when he was summoned to Stevenson, near here, by the city marshal to assist in protecting another negro, whose name was not learned, suspected of attempted assault.

The sheriff and marshal eluded a large crowd that blocked the highway near Liberty about 4 p.m. today, and are believed to have their prisoner safe in a large jail. Feeling was still running high all through Amite County. The name of the victim of the attempted assault had not been learned here tonight.

Lynchings-1931
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Missouri.

3467

EGRO FRAMED IN KANSAS ON RAPE

Daily Worker

Follows After Murder of Raymond Gunn

1-21-31

KANSAS CITY. — Coming on the heels of the mob burning of Raymond Gunn in Maryville, Mo., another Negro worker, Rudolph Gibson, has been "framed" up on charges of rape and murder, and is imprisoned in Kansas city jail, awaiting "trial" which will almost certainly result in imposition of the death penalty.

In a preliminary investigation, Gibson stated that his alleged confession was extorted under direct torture-pressure from the police.

Today a committee of three, representing the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense went to the City jail and demanded to see Gibson. This was denied, under various pretexts. However upon the firm insistence of the committee, consisting of Hettie Tittle, R. T. Pierce and Clara Speer, the committee was granted the right to see Gibson, Wednesday, the regular visiting day.

This evening, a large protest meeting is to be held in the Negro section. Intense indignation against the murder frameup epidemic against Negroes prevails here, and it is expected that a large crowd will turn out.

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

Call
Kansas City, Mo

Had it not been for the confession which the police forced him to sign Rudolph Gibson would never have been convicted on the charge of raping a white woman in a white hotel in the heart of Kansas City. The complaining witness herself proved that neither he nor any other Negro attacked her, when she said that her assailant's hands left black marks on her throat and face. She had already cast doubt on her word by being so sure of his identity though she admitted there was little light. But the black marks on her person clinch the fact that it was some one blacked up artificially and not a Negro! A Negro's color does not rub off!

Several witnesses testified and documentary evidence proved that Gibson attended a party up to within an hour and a half of the time when the rape is supposed to have been committed. At the party he was clean and his clothes were clean. The rapist left black marks wherever he touched. Even had he been a Negro laborer whose clothing was dirty, the marks on the throat and face would have been missing, because any dirt on the hands is either rubbed in or rubbed off long before 3 o'clock in the morning.

This whole charge passes belief anyway. Even a white man, bent upon rape would know that a bedroom was more likely to contain a man or a couple, than a single defenseless woman, and no Negro would chose a white hotel as the place for such a crime. Gibson's case should be appealed. Justice will not miscarry twice.

FORT WAYNE, IND.
JOURNAL GAZETTE

MAR 16 1931

While a St. Louis woman knelt in prayer at her bedside negroes came upon her and ravished her brutally. Her husband was at a table and piously reading the Bible when the black wretches entered the home. Let those who can explain the providence which permitted this outrage upon a faithful pair who had begun to end a peaceful day by their devotions. It can be explained, no doubt.

MOB IGNORES PLEA OF GIRL'S MOTHER

Constitution
5-24-31
Atlanta, Ga.

RICHMOND, Mo., May 23.—(AP)—Although urged by Mrs. May Wrisinger to storm the Ray county jail here and "punish" Paul Hamana, 24-year-old negro held on a charge of attempt to assault her 13-year-old daughter, a crowd of 100 men dispersed early today without acts of violence.

The crowd carried a long rope but remained orderly despite the plea for action from the girl's mother.

MAIL

Nevada, Mo.

MAY 23 1931

FEAR A LYNCHING AT RICHMOND

Richmond, Mo., May 23.—Sheriff and deputies were keeping close watch today on Paul Homan, 24 year old negro, accused of attacking a thirteen year old girl, following the action of a mob at the jail here last night. Although a rope was carried by one of the members of the mob and talk of violence was reported, no attempt was made to hang the prisoner.

NEW YORK AMERICAN

MAY 24 1931

MOTHER URGES MOB TO LYNCH PRISONER

RICHMOND, Mo., May 23 (AP.)—Although urged by Mrs. May Wrisinger to storm the jail here and "punish" Paul Haman, negro held on a charge of attempting to attack her 13-year-old daughter, a crowd of 100 men dispersed today without violence.

The crowd carried a long rope but remained orderly. Sheriff Willard said they seemed to lack a leader. He said he and his deputies were prepared to defend the prisoner.

K.C. Man Not Guilty of Abusing White Girl

10-3-31

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Rudolph Gibson, 25, charged with raping a white girl, was acquitted at a retrial held here Thursday. Gibson, who was defended by C. H. Calloway, L. A. Knox and James H. Herbert, attorneys, was first sentenced to 25 years imprisonment.

Lynchings—1931

Nebraska

3468

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Dismiss Charge Filed Against Rich Rancher

Chicago Def 4-25-3

OMAHA, April 23.—William Batt, a wealthy ranche living near Alliance, Neb., who had been held on an assault charge, was dismissed from the district court, according to a report received here. Charges which Mrs. William Babbitt, a white neighbor, had filed against him were dropped when she failed to appear in court. She had left for parts unknown, an investigation revealed. According to defense witnesses, Mrs. Babbitt had sought to frame Batt

Lynchings-1931

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

New Jersey

3469

Negro Attack Denied

Journal

1-10-31

Police Continue Search For Man

Savannah, Ga

Kenilworth, N. J., Jan. 7 (CNA)—A lynching mob of 75 "enraged citizens" headed by the entire police force here, in continuing its search for an unidentified Negro accused of "robbing" and "attempting to rape" a white girl. The girl in the hospital denied that her attacker was a Negro and thus discredited the lies spread in the press.

The facts were revealed by the Liberator investigating staff appointed by the executive board of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

All day long the League of Struggle for Negro Rights' headquarters in Elizabeth, a few miles away, were surrounded by police and plain clothesmen. Herbert Newton, National Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and another worker were held up by the police, and searched for "inflamatory literature," and two other workers were later arrested, but released at the station house.

The mass protest meeting called in Elizabeth did not materialize as a result of a fire with strangely coincided with the place and time of the scheduled meeting. In spite of the terror, however the workers are prepared to meet the attacks of the police and the lynching mob.

On Sunday the City Committee of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights will meet in Elizabeth, at 106 Jersey Street to coordinate the work of the groups already formed in Rosselle, Linden, and Elizabeth. A group of 25 workers here in Kenilworth, answering the appeal of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights will hold a mass protest meeting on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. The speaker will be B. D. Amis, president of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

Newark Fight Grows On Janitors Who Assault Little Girls.

Tri-State Defender

1-17-31

Memphis, Tenn.

N. Y., Jan. 2—With the churches of Newark, N. J. contributing funds toward the fight to oust and punish the school janitors who assaulted two eight-year-old colored girls a united front is being presented by the colored citizens under the leadership of the Interdenominational Ministers and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A letter to the N. A. A. C. P. reports that the assault took place on Nov. 8, 1930, and that examination by a doctor revealed assault had been committed on the children. Though the case was reported to the school principal, and at City Hall, no action was token by city authorities.

The case was then brought before the Essex County Civic Club, which appointed a committee to investigate. One of the children, brought to court, identified the man who had assaulted her friend. The letter to the N. A. A. C. P., from Miss Mildred M. Free, continues:

The judge was not inclined to believe the story of the child and had both men paroled in custody of Mr. Sheridan of the Board of Education. At this point the committee appealed to the Baptist Ministers Conference where they accidentally met Dean William Pickens, who decided that it was a case for the Newark branch of the N. A. A. C. P.

Dean Pickens so inspired the ministers of all denominations in Newark and vicinity that many have joined the branch, and all have pledged to help fight the atrocious case.

The Interdenominational group of ministers held a meeting at New Hope Baptist Church and appointed Rev. T. T. Tucker, Atty. J. M. Burrell and Arthur Hardy to draw up a set of resolutions and send copies to the Board of Education, and th principal of the Belmont Avenue School. The ministers all promised to aid the Newark N. A. A. C. P. in this fight and the following churches have sent in money for this purpose:

Bethlehem Baptist, Rev. Wilson, Pastor	$ 6.00
Mt. Zion Baptist, Rev. J. W. Brown, pastor	18.22
Bethsaida Bapt. Rev. T. T Tucker, pastor	11.74
Union Bapt., Rev. T. C. Wilcher, pastor	7.24
Mt. Olivet Bapt. Rev. W. Fleming, pastor	13.00
Hope Well Bapt., Rev. Borders, pastor	2.00
St. Johns C. M. E., Rev. A. L. Martin, pastor	6.53
St. Phillips M. E., Rev L. H. Berry, pastor	4.01
St. James A. M. E., Rev. C. Spivey, pastor	8.00
Bethel A. M. E. (Passaic) Rev. J. S. Brown	5.38
Friendship Bapt. Rev. R. Ponder. pastor	25.00
Interdenominational Group	25.75
Total	$132.87

Councilor Geo. A. Douglass has been retained for the case. Members of the Branch have been addressing the different churches each Sunday. Mr. Pickens has spurred every one to help in this action. Mr. Pickens has spoken at two mass meetings and several other meetings in the past two weeks and thru his uniting efforts, he has aroused the whole community to demand justice for these little race girls.

New Jersey Girl Denies Attack of Negro.

Tri-State Defender

1-10-31

Memphis, Tenn.

Kenilworth, N. J., Jan.—A lynching mob of 75 "enraged citizens" headed by the entire police force here is continuing its search for an unidentified colored man accused by the capitalist press of "robbing" and attempting to rape" a white girl. The girl in the hospital denied that her attacker was a colored man and thus discredited the lies spread in the boss press.

These facts were revealed by the Liberator investigating staff appointed by the executive board of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

All day long the League of Struggle for Negro Rights' few miles away, were surrounded by police and plain clothesmen. Herbert Newton, national secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and another worker were held up by the police and searched for "inflamatory literature" and two other workers were later arrested, but released at the station house.

The mass protest meeting called in Elizabeth did not materialize as a result of a fire which strangely coincided with the place and time of the scheduled meeting. In spite of the terror, however, the workers are prepared to meet the attack of the police and the lynching mob.

On Sunday the City Committee of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights will meet in Elizabeth, at 106 Jersey Street to coordinate the work of the groups already formed in Roselle, Linden, and Elizabeth. A group of 25 workers here in Kenilworth, answering the appeal of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights will hold a mass protest meeting on Wednesday evening at 8 oclock. The speaker will be B D. Amis.

Lynchings-1931

New York

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Porter Made "Goat" In Story Of Attack

Argus

6-26-31

By A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH

NEW YORK, June 24.—So many conflicting statements have been circulated in the white press about the case of Pullman porter James E. Smith who was attacked by eight white men enroute from New York to Lake Placid April 29th, and as a result of his fighting in self-defense was arrested in Utica and released upon the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters furnishing bail bond, that the union desires to present a clear statement on the matter.

St. Louis, Mo

The facts are as follows: Porter James E. Smith was accused by Pullman conductor Edward English of annoying a woman passenger and instead of adjusting what he regarded as a grievance in a sensible and proper manner, he struck porter Smith which was followed with an attempt on the part of Pullman conductor McCann to strike him also. He defended himself with a ventilator stick. He was not only attacked by these two Pullman conductors but by other members of the train crew and some passengers. Upon his arrival at Thendara state troopers boarded the train to whom he voluntarily surrendered making it unnecessary for them to use any force such as was reported by the white papers which alleged that troopers threatened to use tear gas bombs to subdue him. He was later carried to Utica where he was required to make a statement before District Attorney DeAngelis in which he denied the charges of the conductor. He then wired the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters about the situation which resulted in action being taken for his release. Charges that were lodged against him were second degree assault. The woman whom he was alleged to have annoyed has made no charges whatever.

May 21st the Grand Jury was reported not to have indicted Smith; while he was not returned in the open indictments he was included among the sealed. June 16th porter Smith was required to go to Rome, New York to appear for a preliminary hearing before Judge Hazzard. Two charges were there presented against him by the two conductors above mentioned. One of first degree assault and the other second degree. He is now awaiting trial which is scheduled to take place the latter part of June. It is interesting to note that bail bond was reduced from $5.000 to $3,000.

Lynchings-1931

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

3471

North Carolina.

3471

CAROLINA PROTECTS NEGRO ATTACKER

SOUTHPORT, N. C., Feb. 21.—(UP)—Talmer Brown, 21-year-old negro, was incarce[illegible] south-eastern North [illegible] jail today to avert thre[illegible] mob action following his confession to criminal assault upon a 16-year-old white girl. The attack occurred near Town Creek, 10 miles from Wilmington. The girl, who officers said identified the negro, was reported in serious condition in a hospital. She was attacked while on her way home from school late Friday, but the negro was captured shortly afterwards by three citizens of Town Creek and turned over to Sheriff Jasper A. Russ.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
OBSERVER

MAY 14 1931

ASSAILANT OF WOMAN SOUGHT BY ANGRY MOB

White Mother of 7-Weeks Old Baby Attacked by Negro.

POSSE SCOURING COUNTRY

Threats of Lynching Give Authorities [redacted] Search For Man Goes On.

MARSHVILLE, May 13.—Mrs. Hoyle E. Keziah, 20-year-old mother of a seven weeks' old baby, was brutally assaulted by a negro at her home near here early this morning, and late today an angry mob was scouring a wide area of the countryside in a search for her assailant.

The temper of the mob was such that authorities feared for the man's safety in the event of his capture. Upwards of a thousand men and boys, armed with shotguns and a varied assortment of other weapons, were engaged in the manhunt.

According to the story related by Mrs. Keziah when she reached a neighbor's house, the negro approached her as she was gathering vegetables in the garden of her home. A fierce struggle ensued in which she was choked into unconsciousness and an attempt made to cut her throat with a knife. The ground was torn up for yards around by the struggle. Her dress was almost ripped from her body.

Her screams were heard by neighbors but the crime did not become known until the negro had made his escape. Her husband was working in the fields some distance from the house when the attack occurred.

DESCRIBES NEGRO

Mrs. Keziah described the negro as of a dark gingercake color, apparently about 20 years old and weighing 150 pounds. This description was said by officers to fit a young negro who recently came to this community from Winston-Salem and who was seen near the Keziah home a short time before the attack occurred.

He was being sought by Sheriff Fowler and a posse. A brother of the man sought was arrested and held in jail as a material witness.

Once during the progress of the manhunt today, Sheriff Fowler caught a glimpse of the negro believed to be the man wanted and emptied his pistol at him but without effect. The negro ran into a dense woods and the officers and posse were unable to capture him.

Mrs. Keziah was reported tonight in a serious condition at her home. She and her husband are well known in the community where they live, about four miles northeast of here.

A reward offer of $100 for the capture of the negro was announced late tonight by Sheriff Clifford E. Fowler who furnished the following description of him:

Aged 19 to 20 years, weight 140 to 145 pounds, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches tall, dark gingercake color and wearing when last seen a suit of blue overalls, slightly faded, light cap, blue shirt, dark necktie with yellow stripes and black shoes.

Sheriff Fowler reported the negro had been trailed to the edge of the Lancaster county line in Beaufort township of Union county and apparently was making his way to South Carolina.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
Monday, May 18, 1931

CAPTURED NEGRO HAS CONFESSED HIS GUILT

Victim Says Man Taken In Lancaster Attacked Her.

Charlotte, N. C., May 16—Hunted for three nights and two days, Wilson Autry, 20-year-old negro accused of an attack upon a white woman, was captured in Lancaster county, S. C., today and brought here for safe-keeping. He confessed the crime tonight, officers said.

Sheriff L. F. Dabney, of Lancaster, captured the fugitive, cornering him in a barn near Springdell station, after being told by another negro that Autry was there.

With armed men from several counties scouring the section, intent on taking the negro, Sheriff Dabney put Autry in the tonneau of his automobile, covered him with a blanket and drove here.

Autry was lodged in solitary confinement in the Mecklenburg county jail. At first he denied he attacked the woman.

The victim of the attack last Wednesday was the wife of a Union county farmer. Twenty years old, she is the mother of a seven-weeks-old baby.

During the hunt that followed the attack, Autry was reported surrounded in woods numerous times, but always managed to elude his pursuers. A reward of $100 was offered by Union county for his capture.

After the negro had been brought here, Sheriff Clifford Fowler, of Union county was summoned. Obtaining a confession, he said, from the negro, Sheriff Fowler then took him to the home of the young woman near Marshville for positive identification.

She looked the prisoner over from head to foot and replied:

"He is the man."

Sheriff Fowler then turned to Autry and asked:

"Is that the woman you attacked?"

The negro, shaking from fear, mumbled, "yes," and pointed to the spot in a garden of the home where the attack occurred.

The negro then was returned to a jail in Charlotte.

Efforts were being made tonight to obtain an order from Governor O. Max Gardner for a special term of court for the trial of the defendant.

Bamberg, S. C. Herald
Thursday, June 4, 1931

Lancaster Sheriff Ends Man Hunt

It was really one of the biggest things in the history of the Carolinas already full of tales of daring-do tragedy, heroism, and men more skillful than foxes in eluding pursuit—that chase of a negro brute for two days and three nights, mostly through the thickly wooded swamps bordering the Catawba river where there was no trail, for about fifty miles, by posses from four South Carolina counties and the North Carolina county in which the unspeakable crime of the negro was committed, half a thousand men in the hunt before it ended, three times thinking they had their quarry trapped, and three times finding it had eluded them.

And a very big thing in brainy capturing of criminals, in the preservation of law and order during a most dangerous half hour, in strategy that outwitted the human beast and then outwitted the determined citizenry of the five counties, was the work of the sheriff of Lancaster county, South Carolina, of whom the whole Palmetto state may be proud.

The man whose strategy caused the arrest and safe confinement of the negro for whom hundreds of men had been searching for several days in two states was Sheriff L. F. Dabney, of Lancaster county, whose quiet movements, soft voice, watchful eye, and almost smiling face is familiar to hundreds of people.

After the great hunt had been unsuccessful for a couple of days and had come down into his bailiwick from across the state line, he had a conference with the negroes of the section of Lancaster county into which the beast in the shape of a man seemed to be heading. Sheriff Dabney told the negroes the only way to save from a horrible death the black man who had assaulted and beat into unconsciousness a farmer's wife in her garden was for him to reach the negro before the mob of citizens found him.

So, when Wilson Audrey appeared at a barn on the Gibson place near Springdell, 14 miles from Lancaster, on Saturday morning, several negroes guarded him there while others slipped away to tell the sheriff they trusted.

Within a mile of the barn in all directions were 500 men bent on capturing and lynching the negro. Sheriff Dabney drove to the barn, put the frightened negro into the bottom of his automobile, covered him with a blanket apparently carelessly bunched, picked up his deputy, J. M. Ferguson, and Officer P. S. Thurman, of Lancaster, and began a wild ride to Charlotte through the hundreds of determined men engaged in the chase.

Sheriff Dabney got through the crowded countryside without detection of the negro in his car, and got to the county jail in Charlotte in record time. That jail is impregnable, and the crime was committed in North Carolina. The sheriff realized how precarious were the chances of getting the negro to safety, to keep his promises ~~to the~~ negroes of his home county, but he succeeded.

"He would not have lasted five minutes, if they had known what was under our blanket," Sheriff Dabney told Charlotte reporters after his arrival there.

There at the Charlotte jail Sheriff Clifford Fowler, of Union county, North Carolina, who had directed the unsuccessful big man hunt, got his prisoner a little later, took him secretly to the ravished woman who identified him, heard the confession of Wilson Audrey and saw him point out the spot of the crime, and then hid him away behind strong bars again.

Audrey had slipped up on the woman, who has a baby seven weeks old, who fought him desperately as the torn up ground showed, but was overcome. As the woman regained a hazy consciousness, the negro cursed her and sneered at her condition. Then he ran away and as soon as she was able to walk, the woman went to a house and told her tragic tale.

At first a couple of officers and a dozen citizens composed the posse. But other men joined it quickly. Every hour saw it increased. It came down over the state line between the two Carolinas 200 strong, and within a half day was increased to 500 grim, shocked, determined Carolinians armed with every sort of weapon from guns loaded with buckshot to pistols of every type.

The quarry kept to the wooded bushy swamp which makes a wide woodland along the Catawba river dividing Lancaster from York county and forming the panhandle of the former ever since it was Lancaster district when this state was a colony. He was wise in woodcraft and concealment.

There was no trail perceptible, and the only sign was where the hunted man had stopped to ask directions, or for water or food. And these places were always reached some time after the quarry had gone on. The people living in that section had not yet heard of the outrage thirty miles away in another state.

Once, Sheriff Fowler had caught a glimpse of the negro and fired at him and missed, and instantly the man had disappeared in a clump of brush. Once Sheriff Dabney shot at him at long range and missed, and no trace of the quarry could be found there. Once, a wily farmer at whose house Audrey stopped to ask the road to Union told him he would get a road map and see, but went into the house and got a gun—but the negro was going fast 150 yards away when the farmer got back to the front porch, and again the hunted beast escaped harm. The guard at the Catawba river bridge west of Lancaster emptied his pistol at the fugitive the next day without harming the negro. The last morning of the long chase, his tracks were found at Riverside where he had robbed a store for food.

The outraged woman gave the alarm Wednesday evening. All that night and next day, all Thursday night, all day Friday and that night, the chase continued. The posse of a half thousand gained on their quarry during the days. and their quarry gained during the nights. Every night the hunters were sure they had the negro bottled up in some woods, and every morning they found him gone. Meantime all bridges ahead of him were guarded day and night, and highway patrolmen, state constables and rural policeman dropped everything else to help catch that negro.

His description had been broadcast by an avalanche of circulars by Sheriff Fowler, offering $100 reward for him, "in any jail in the United States" which reward the accompanying letter said the sheriff would be delighted to pay somebody.

The county attorney of Union county, North Carolina, in which the crime occurred near Marshfield, says a special term of court will be asked to try the prisoner at Monroe, but two weeks' notice of that must be advertised, and the trial will probably be June 8.

Wilson Audrey, the negro now safe in the Charlotte jail, had worked on farms near Blacksburg and in Union county South Carolina and his enquiries while being pursued seem to indicate that he was trying to get back to one or the other of those places. He had served time in the chain gang of Union county, North Carolina, where he was born but left early in life. He returned there a few days before his crime.

Rock-Hill, S. C. Herald
Tuesday, June 16, 1931

Criminal Attack Is Made On Woman

Warrenton, N. C., June 16. —(AP)—Three negroes were being held in jail here today in connection with a criminal attack yesterday upon a woman living near Norlina.

As soon as the woman recovers from her nervous condition, she will be given an opportunity to identify her attackers.

"NEGRO-DID-IT" CRIME EXPOSED

Journal & Guide
norfolk, Va

19-Year-Old White Girl Admits That She Lied

9-14-31

KINSTON, N. C.—Another "Negro-did-it" crime went up into thin air Tuesday, when Chief Delanson Wilcox of the Kinston Police Department made public that the 19-year-old white Jones County girl who was supposedly "attacked" by a Negro had admitted to police that she had lied.

She was not assaulted by a Negro last Saturday evening when she went to feed her chickens in her barn; instead she had gone walking voluntarily with Jack Harrison, a 35-year-old farm hand, and when she discovered that her mother had been searching for her she gave out the alarm that she had been attacked by a Negro wearing "a white robe and mask."

Immediately Negroes were picked up by the county authorities and thrown in jail ;a mob, armed with guns, also gathered; and bloodhounds were put on the "trail" of the Negro. So high did sentiment rise that the suspected men had to be whisked away to an unknown jail for safekeeping.

Chief Wilcox assisted the Jones County authorities in the case, but instead of spending all his time hunting for the "Negro who did it," he lingered about the home of the girl in Haskins Chapel, near Trenton, and finally found that her story was unfounded and false.

N. C., MAN CONVICTED OF RAPE ON WHITE GIRL WINS HIS FREEDOM

10-20-31

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 7 — Rcdolph Gibson is free. Afer seven months behind prison walls, as he began his sentence of 35 years for the alleged rape of a white girl, Gibson was given a new lease on life when Judge Darius A. Brown declared the evidence on which he had been convicted was totally insufficient.

The youth was brought to trial some weeks ago and C. H. Calloway, Wm. Parker, L. A. Knox and James H. Herbert, well known colored lawyers, were apoited to represent him. Despite the desperate fight waged by the attorneys the jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Chicago Def.

Believing that young Gibson was innocent the attorneys for the defendant filed a plea for a new trial, submitting newly discovered evidence and the plea was granted. The case was called three times and each time, the defense was ready but the state was unready. Finally the case cameup and the lad was acquitted.

Testimony at the trial revealed that Gibson had been forced to sign a confession when first arrested after being promised that if he confessed he would be given a light sentence and that if he did not he would rereive the same treatment meted out to Raymond Gunn, who was lynched. Under duress Gibson signed the confession, stating that "I will sign it but I am not guilty."

Another bit of interesting aestimony was that Gibson was arrested along with three other scspects. The girl was carried to the police station where she gave them the once-over without being able to identify either of them as her assailant. She declared hat the room in which she was attacked was dark and tat she could not se the face of her attacker. Later she was influenced by one of the detectives on the case to identify Gibson, who is a musician by profession.

The attorneys who fought such a valiant and successfcl battle have been highly commended for their interest in the matter as well as Mrs. Fredericka Perry who secured funds to fight the case, and the Kansas City Call, local newspaper.

Boy, 15, Cannot Be Identified, But Will Be Tried For Rape

Journal and Guide

10-17-31

SANFORD, N. C.—(ANP)—At a preliminary hearing here, Hughie McDonald, 15, vigorously denied that he was guilty of raping a white [illegible]n, Sallie Wilburn. The white wo[illegible]s-tified that she was sleeping [illegible] a man entered her room, threw a sheet over her face, assaulted her, and escaped. Her husband, Sam Wilburn arrived home a few minutes later and was apprised of the attack. Remembering that he had seen McDonald near his home as he was approaching he swore out a warrant for the youth.

Norfolk Va

When confronted by the woman at the hearing, McDonald repeated his denial and the white woman declared that she could not identify her assailant as her face was covered during the attack and she was too frightened to remove it, after the act had been completed, for several minutes. Sam Wilburn, however, was positive that McDonald was the guilty man and the youth was held in jail for trial during the November term of court.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

SEP 17 1931

Close To The Danger Line

If the mob that scoured the woods in the vicinity of Kinston last Sunday is search of an alleged attacker of a young girl, described as a member of a prominent family, had happened upon some innocent Negro, he doubtless would have been slain. If ~~the~~ mob of more than a thousand men, a great number of whom were armed, had come upon a Negro in the woods they were searching here a year ago last May, an innocent Negro would have been killed. Doubtless the armed posse in Lenoir county was as bitter and as eager for bloodshed as the armed posse in Edgecombe county.

The statements of the young girl in Lenoir, made since the mob scoured the section of Lenoir where the Negro was believed in hiding, revealed that her first story was untrue, and that she had not been assaulted as she claimed. Events and discoveries since the famed "Battleboro" case occurred in this county have led police to the conclusion that the story first told was a trumped-up one.

This newspaper dislikes the idea of seeking new laws. The statute books are so cluttered now with foolish and impotent pieces of legislation that to add to the number is not always the wisest policy. But it seems wise that one addition be made. When stories of young women incite mobs to action, bestir the animosity between races, and are later proved to be fabrications designed to protect the maker at the expense of innocent people, it seems only logical that these young women should be severely punished. The willingness of the male population to protect women from attack is commendable, but to sacrifice innocent men to satisfy the lust of a mob stirred to action over a story that is lacking in truth is criminal. Ordinarily, the story of the young woman decides the action of the mob, and it is not possible, once such a story is told, to keep it secret.

We have had the opportunity of mingling with armed men who sought the lives of Negroes they believed guilty of an unspeakable crime and there remains no question but that the men, as they tramped through woods and swamps, as they guarded highways and forced themselves upon travelers, were ready for bloodshed. It is not a pleasant experience. If the man sought is known to be guilty, the complexion of the chase is somewhat changed. Police, in the face of a mob, are helpless, particularly when the mob is lending its efforts to bring a man to justice. Mob action is stirred by stories. They are accepted as truth. When they are found to be otherwise, there is no course left for the law to follow, or else it is never followed. An excellent addition to the statutes of North Carolina would be a law which demands immediate prosecution of young women who incite mobs without reason. And upon conviction, severe punishment should be meted out.

This is the second wild goose chase in Eastern Carolina in recent months, a chase that had all of the promises of really serious results. There must be an end to this sordid business, and if reason will not serve, then recourse to the law offers about the only remaining hope.